

CHAPTER DCCLXIV.

A SUPPLEMENT TO AN ACT, ENTITLED "AN ACT TO ENABLE A SMALLER NUMBER OF THE MEMBERS OF ASSEMBLY THAN A QUORUM TO COLLECT THE ABSENT MEMBERS, AND ISSUE WRITS FOR FILLING VACANCIES OCCASIONED BY NEGLECT OR REFUSAL."¹

Whereas by an act of general assembly of this commonwealth, entitled "An act to enable a smaller number of members of assembly than a quorum to collect the absent members, and issue writs for filling vacancies occasioned by neglect or refusal,"¹ it is provided that the speaker and a smaller number of members than a quorum are authorized and empowered to send for and collect the absent members, and also to issue writs for the electing of members to supply the vacancies of such members who do neglect or refuse to attend. But as there is no provision made by the said recited act to enable a smaller number of members than a quorum when met to issue writs for the holding of elections in the city of Philadelphia or such counties as shall have neglected or refused to elect the same:

And whereas the present invasion and various movements of the enemy may render it impracticable for some parts of this state to elect representatives and other elective officers at the times and places appointed by law, by which means a quorum agreeable to the constitution may happen not to be elected, and consequently the public business delayed, to the great injury of this commonwealth:

For remedy whereof:

[Section I] Be it enacted, and it is hereby enacted by the Representatives of the Freemen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, [That] it shall and may be lawful for such of the members of assembly, though less in number than a quorum, who shall meet on the day fixed by the constitution of this state or a majority of them to issue a writ [or writs] to the sheriff, coroner

¹ Passed January 21, 1777. Chapter 736.

or any other person whom they shall appoint in the said city or counties respectively which shall so have neglected or refused, commanding the said sheriff, coroner or other person to whom the said writ or writs shall be directed to hold an election at certain times and places in the said writ or writs mentioned which said places shall be somewhere within the same county for which such election or elections shall be so held. And if it shall happen that a new election shall be ordered to be held for the city of Philadelphia and the same city shall be in the possession of the enemy, then the said election shall be appointed at some place within the county of Philadelphia, and the said representatives and other elective officers chosen at the said times and places shall be deemed and taken as the true and lawful representatives and other elective officers of the city or counties for which they shall be so respectively chosen or elected.

Passed October 11, 1777. See the note to the Act of Assembly passed January 21, 1777, Chapter 736.

CHAPTER DCCLXV.

A SUPPLEMENT TO THE ACT, ENTITLED "AN ACT OBLIGING THE MALE WHITE INHABITANTS OF THIS STATE TO GIVE ASSURANCES OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE SAME AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES THEREIN MENTIONED."¹

Whereas by an act entitled "An act obliging the male white inhabitants of this state to give assurances of allegiance to the same and for other purposes therein mentioned,"¹ it is enacted that all the male white inhabitants of this state above the age of eighteen years should take and subscribe the oath of affirmation therein directed:

And whereas it is nevertheless found upon experience that the said act does not fully answer all the good purposes by the same act intended:

¹ Passed June 13, 1777, Chapter 756.