

## CHAPTER DCCLXXXIX.

## AN ACT FOR THE MORE SPEEDY AND EFFECTUAL RECOVERY OF DEBTS DUE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas it is essential to the interest and liberties of the United States of America, that all and every sum and sums of money due to them should be speedily and effectually recovered:

[Section I.] (Section II, P. L.) Be it therefore 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 Congress or any person or persons by them authorized or empowered for that purpose, to commence, sue and prosecute an action of debt, account render, or upon the case in the name of The United States of America (who are hereby created and made a body politic and corporate within this commonwealth for that purpose) against any person or persons whomsoever, their heirs, executors or administrators, who are or shall be indebted for any money received by them in virtue of any warrant or order of Congress, or of any person or persons appointed by or under them, in any court of common pleas of this state; which said court, upon the return of the process and appearance of the parties, may and shall appoint three or five auditors to state and liquidate the accounts and ascertain the balance due in such action; and the said auditors, or a majority of them, shall proceed in the premises and make their report on oath or affirmation to the court next after their appointment, unless the said court, upon reasonable cause shown by affidavit, shall think it just to allow farther time; and the said report being returned to and approved by the court, shall be recorded, and judgment given and execution awarded thereupon, as is usual in other cases.

Passed March 23, 1778.