

Laws enacted in the second sitting of the third General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, which commenced at Philadelphia, on Monday, the first day of February, A. D. 1779, and continued till Monday, the fifth day of April of the same year:

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CHAPTER DCCCXXV.

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AN ACT TO INCREASE THE FEES OF TAVERN LICENSES, THE FINES ON TIPLING HOUSES AND THE RATES OF EXCISE.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas the fees heretofore paid for tavern licenses, the fines imposed on such as keep taverns or tippling-houses without license, and the rates of excise on spirituous liquors are altogether inadequate to the exigencies of government and to the good purposes for which the said fees and excise are now by the constitution of this commonwealth appropriated and the said fines imposed; and as tavern keepers and dealers in spirituous liquors make much greater profits at this time than they did when the laws regulating the said fees and excise were passed, it is but just and reasonable that they should contribute proportionately towards the support of government and to defray the great debts unavoidably incurred in carrying on the just and necessary war in which these United States are at present engaged for the preservation of their rights and liberties:

[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 from and after the publication of this act every person or persons who shall obtain a license to keep a tavern or public house of entertainment within this

commonwealth according to the directions and in the manner mentioned and expressed in and by the laws now in force shall pay therefor three times the fees which such person or persons ought to have paid according to the directions of the said laws.

[Section II.] (Section III, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any person or persons within this commonwealth shall after the publication of this act have or keep any public inn, tavern, ale-house, tippling-house, or dram shop, victualling house or public house of entertainment without such license to be obtained as aforesaid, such person shall for every such offense forfeit and pay instead of five pounds the sum of thirty pounds; and that every person having obtained such license who shall suffer any disorder such as drunkenness or any unlawful games in his, her or their house, or in any place in his, her or their occupancy, shall for the first offense forfeit and pay instead of forty shillings the sum of twelve pounds; and for every other offense committed by such person against the laws of this commonwealth now in force relating to, or concerning inn-keepers and tavern keepers or retailers of spirituous liquors as such, every such offender or offenders shall forfeit and pay six times the sum and sums respectively which were imposed by the said laws:

(Section IV, P. L.) And whereas by the laws of this commonwealth heretofore passed, it is enacted that a rate, duty and sum of four pence per gallon should be imposed and levied on all wine, rum, brandy and other spirits bartered, sold or consumed within this commonwealth except as in the said laws is excepted, and that each and every retailer thereof should pay therefore the rate and duty of three pounds per annum:

[Section III.] (Section V, P. L.) Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That instead of the said rate, duty and sum of four pence per gallon there shall after the publication of this act be raised, levied and collected the rate, duty and sum of one shilling per gallon and so in proportion for any greater or lesser quantity for all wine, rum, brandy and other spirits, bartered, sold or consumed within this state except as aforesaid, and that each and every such retailer thereof as aforesaid shall instead of the sum of three pounds per annum pay the sum of nine

pounds yearly and every year, all which rates, duties, sum and sums of money shall be raised, levied and collected in the same manner and according to the directions and exceptions and under treble the respective penalties in the said laws mentioned, expressed and imposed.

[Section IV.] (Section VI, P. L.) And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all moneys arising from tavern licenses (except the fees to be paid thereon to the [justices and] clerk of the general quarter sessions and clerk of the common pleas of the city of Philadelphia, and of each county of this state and except also the fees thereon to the secretary of the state) and each and every of the fines imposed upon and paid by each and every person and persons who shall keep inns or taverns without such license as aforesaid, and also all and singular the moneys arising and collected from the excise aforesaid, after deducting the collector's fees shall by the respective officers be paid into the treasury of this state for the use of the same within three months after the same have been collected by and paid unto them respectively from time to time under the penalty of forfeiting and paying double such sum and sums which they or either of them shall have in their hands and shall neglect or refuse to pay as aforesaid to be recovered against them or either of them by action on the case or of debt or account render as the case may require in the name of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

[Section V.] (Section VII, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all and singular the moneys heretofore received on account of the excise by the former or present collectors thereof in the different counties of this commonwealth and not paid according to the true intent and meaning of the said laws shall be paid by the said collectors respectively into the treasury of this commonwealth within three months from and after the publication of this act under the penalty of forfeiting and paying double the sum and sums that they or either of them shall neglect or refuse to pay in manner aforesaid to be recovered in the manner herein before directed.

Passed March 15, 1779. See the notes to the Acts of Assembly passed February 28, 1710-11, Chapter 172; September 21, 1756, Chapter 412; March 21, 1772, Chapter 656. The act in the text was repealed by the Act of Assembly passed March 17, 1780, Chapter 397.

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CHAPTER DCCCXXVI.

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AN ACT TO EMPOWER THE TRUSTEES FOR BUILDING A COURT HOUSE AND PRISON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF BEDFORD TO SELL A MESSUAGE AND LOT OF GROUND IN THE TOWN OF BEDFORD PURCHASED BY THEM TO SERVE AS A TEMPORARY PRISON, AND TO APPROPRIATE THE MONEYS ARISING BY SUCH SALE.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas the said trustees have by their petition represented to this house that they were under the necessity immediately after the said county was erected to provide some place to serve for a prison till a proper house for that purpose could be built, that they therefore purchased a house and lot from James McCashlan situate on the east side of the main cross street in the town of Bedford numbered six in the general plan of the said town, bounded on the west by the said street, on the south partly by the public square and partly by lot number seven, on the east by a twenty feet alley and on the north by lot number five, which the said James McCashland by his deed poll dated the thirteenth day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-one, for the consideration therein mentioned conveyed to Arthur St. Clair, Barnard Dougherty, George Woods and William Proctor, Esquires, and Thomas Coulter, gentleman, the trustees aforesaid in trust for the said county; that the said trustees have since procured a more convenient lot on which they have built a court-house and prison, by which the said temporary prison is become unnecessary; and praying this house would pass a law to enable them to sell the same and to apply the money arising from the sale thereof towards defraying the debt incurred by the said county in purchasing the said lot and building the said court-house and prison: