

grant relief unto all persons confined as aforesaid for debt (other than for fines and forfeitures for crimes and misdemeanors) due to the commonwealth, or for rent due from them to their respective lessors or landlords in the same manner and form as aforesaid; any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Passed December 20, 1784. Recorded L. B. No. 2, p. 382, etc. See the act of Assembly passed February 14, 1729-30, Chapter 315.

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## CHAPTER MCXXII.

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AN ACT TO ALTER AND AMEND AN ACT OF ASSEMBLY, ENTITLED  
 "AN ACT FOR OPENING THE LAND-OFFICE, FOR GRANTING AND DIS-  
 POSING OF THE UNAPPROPRIATED LANDS WITHIN THIS STATE."<sup>1</sup>

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas in and by the act of assembly entitled 'An act for opening the land-office, for granting and disposing of the unappropriated lands within this state,'<sup>1</sup> it was enjoined upon the commissioners appointed for making a further purchase of all the residue of the unpurchased lands within the limits of this state that they ascertain, in their negotiation with the Indians with the greatest possible precision the line between the lands already purchased and those that shall be by them purchased:

(Section II, P. L.) And whereas the directions given as aforesaid to the said commissioners have been supposed by some persons to vest in the said commissioners sufficient authority to adjust and ascertain the boundaries and lines of the purchase of lands made by the late proprietaries of the Six Nation Indians on the fifth day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty-eight so as to influence and affect the location of lands under former acts of assembly and of the said recited act:

(Section III, P. L.) And whereas uncertainties and inconveniences may arise from the construction aforesaid:

Therefore:

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<sup>1</sup> Passed April 1, 1784, Chapter 1094.

[Section I.] (Section IV, P. L.) 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, and it is hereby declared, That the directions above recited did not give nor ought to be construed to give to the said commissioners any authority to ascertain, definitively, the boundary lines aforesaid; and that the lines of the purchase so made, as aforesaid, in the year one thousand seven hundred and sixty-eight, striking the line of the west branch of the river Susquehanna at the mouth of Lycomick or Lycoming creek shall be the boundaries of the same purchase to all legal intents and purposes until the general assembly shall otherwise regulate and declare the same.

(Section V, P. L.) And whereas the mode of sale by auction of the lands which the commissioners aforesaid were directed and empowered to purchase, provided in and by the said act appears to be inconvenient and would be tedious and many persons disposed to become real settlers would thereby be deprived of their proper shares thereof; and whereas the direction by the said act given to said officers of the land-office to take the bonds of the purchasers payable within two years for one moiety of the consideration whereby the lien on the lands as heretofore, for the purchase money or arrears thereof would be waived and great damage ensue to the Commonwealth:

Therefore:

[Section II] (Section VI, P. L.) Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said act so far as it directs and authorizes the laying out the lands, so to be purchased as aforesaid in lots and selling them by public auction and so far also as it directs and enables the officers of the said land-office to give credit for any part of the purchase money or to take bonds for the same shall be and the same are hereby repealed and made void.

[Section III.] (Section VII, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That from and after the first day of May next and not sooner the land-office of this commonwealth shall be open for applications for the lands within the purchase made or to be made by the commissioners aforesaid (the lands

within this state appropriated for the redemption of depreciation certificates and the donation lands to the officers and soldiers of the Pennsylvania line only excepted) at and after the rate of thirty pounds for every hundred acres of the same, and so in proportion for greater or less quantities thereof such application or the survey thereof to be made not to exceed one thousand acres with the usual allowance of six per centum for highways and every applicant for any of the same lands shall before the warrant for the same issue produce to the secretary of the land-office, an acquittance signed by the receiver-general of the [said] land-office, setting forth that the full purchase and consideration aforesaid has been paid and satisfied and the bills of credit of this state dated the twentieth day of April one thousand seven hundred and eighty-one and gold and silver money and the certificates described and directed in and by the act aforesaid shall be received by the said receiver-general in satisfaction of all purchase money as aforesaid.

[Section IV.] (Section VIII, P. L.) Provided always, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That any warrant which shall be issued in pursuance of this act shall not be confined to any particular place but shall enable the applicant to get the same located upon any vacant land where the said applicant shall think fit except as aforesaid, and the land which shall be surveyed upon any such warrant shall not exceed the number of acres expressed in the said warrant and the same land shall be all located and surveyed in one tract or parcel.

(Section IX, P. L.) And whereas divers persons who have heretofore occupied and cultivated small tracts of land without the bounds of the purchase made as aforesaid in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty-eight and within the purchase made or now to be made by the said commissioners have by their resolute stand and sufferings during the late war merited that those settlers should have the pre-emption of their respective plantations:

[Section V.] (Section X, P. L.) Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all and every person or persons and their legal representatives who has or have heretofore settled on the north side of the west branch of the river Susquehanna

upon the Indian territory between Lycomick or Lycoming creek on the east and Tyagaghton or Pine creek on the west as well as other lands within the said residuary purchase from the Indians of the territory within this state excepting always the lands herein before excepted shall be allowed a right of pre-emption to their respective possessions at the price aforesaid.

[Section VI.] (Section XI, P. L.) Provided always and be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no person shall be entitled to the preemption aforesaid unless he, she or they shall have made actual settlement as before described before the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty and that no such claim shall be admitted to or under any such person or persons for more than three hundred acres of land with the usual allowance for roads to be surveyed together and in one tract, nor unless application for the same be made and the consideration thereof tendered to the receiver-general of the land-office on or before the first day of November next.

Passed December 21, 1784. Recorded L. B. No. 2, p. 384, etc.  
See the Acts of Assembly passed October 3, 1788, Chapter 1364;  
April 3, 1792, Chapter 1624.

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## CHAPTER MCXXIII.

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AN ACT FOR DIRECTING THE MODE OF RECOVERING DEBTS CONTRACTED BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF JANUARY, IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SEVEN.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas most of the debts contracted by the citizens of this state before the first day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven which yet remain unpaid are due and owing from persons who from principles of honor and honesty declined paying their debts in paper currency of less value than the money in which they were contracted when by the laws of the state they might have so done and it would be unreasonable that