

## CHAPTER MCCLXXXVI.

AN ACT FOR GRANTING AND SECURING TO JOHN FITCH THE SOLE RIGHT AND ADVANTAGES OF MAKING AND EMPLOYING THE STEAMBOAT BY HIM LATELY INVENTED FOR A LIMITED TIME.

(Section I. P. L.) Whereas John Fitch, of Bucks county, hath represented to the legislature that he hath constructed an easy and expeditious method of impelling boats through the water by the force of steam, praying that an act may pass granting to him, his executors, administrators and assigns the sole and exclusive right of making, employing and navigating all boats empelled by the force of steam or fire within the jurisdiction of this state for a limited time.

Wherefore in order to promote and encourage so useful an improvement and discovery and as a reward for his ingenuity, application and diligence.

[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 the said John Fitch, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns shall be and they are hereby vested with the sole and exclusive right and privilege of constructing, making, using, employing and navigating all and every species or kind of boats or water craft which may be urged or impelled through the water by the force of fire or steam, in all creeks, rivers, bays and waters whatsoever within the territory and jurisdiction of this state for and during the full end and term of fourteen years from and after the present session of the legislature.

[Section II.] (Section III. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any person or persons whatsoever, without being properly authorized by him the said John Fitch, his heirs, executors or administrators, shall make, use, employ or navigate any boat or water craft which shall or may be urged, impelled, forced or driven through the water by the force, power or agency of fire or steam as aforesaid within the

territory or jurisdiction of this state, every person or persons so offending against the tenor, true intent and meaning of this act for each and every such offense shall forfeit and pay unto the said John Fitch, his heirs, executors or administrators or to such other person or persons as he the said John Fitch, his heirs or assigns shall authorize and empower for that purpose the sum of one hundred pounds to be recovered by action of debt in any court of record within this state wherein the same may be cognizable with cost of suit and shall also forfeit to him the said John Fitch, his heirs or assigns, all such boat, boats or water craft together with the steam engine and all appurtenances thereof to be recovered in manner aforesaid with costs of suit.

[Section III.] (Section IV. P. L.) Provided always and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That neither this act nor any clause, matter or thing therein contained shall be taken, deemed or construed to prohibit or prevent any person or persons from making, using employing or navigating within this state any kinds of boats or water craft heretofore invented or hereafter to be invented on any other principle, construction or model which may be urged, impelled, forced or driven along through the water by any other power, force, agency or means, except fire or steam.

Passed March 28, 1787. Recorded L. B. No. 3, p. 213, etc.

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## CHAPTER MCCLXXXVII.

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AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE TOWNSHIP OF LONDONDERRY IN THE COUNTY OF DAUPHIN.

(Section I. P. L.) Whereas divers members of the Presbyterian church of Londonderry in the county of Dauphin by their petition have prayed that their said congregation may be incorporated and by law enabled as a body politic and corporate to receive and hold such charitable donations and bequests as may from time to time be made to their society and vested with