

CHAPTER MDCCLXXVI.

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF THIS STATE IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

Whereas it is necessary to make provision for the election of representatives of the good people of this commonwealth, to serve in the house of representatives of the United States.

[Section I.] (Section I, P. L.) Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That for the purpose of electing representatives of the people of this commonwealth, to serve in the house of representatives of the United States, this state shall be divided into twelve districts, as follows:

The city of Philadelphia shall be a district, and shall elect one member;

The county of Philadelphia shall be a district, and shall elect one member;

The counties of Chester and Delaware shall be a district, and shall elect one member;

The counties of Bucks, Northampton and Montgomery shall be a district, and shall elect two members;

The counties of Berks and Luzerne shall be a district, and shall elect one member;

The counties of Dauphin and Northumberland shall be a district, and shall elect one member;

The county of Lancaster shall be a district, and shall elect one member;

The county of York shall be a district, and shall elect one member;

The counties of Cumberland and Mifflin shall be a district, and shall elect one member;

The counties of Bedford, Franklin and Huntingdon shall be a district, and shall elect one member;

The counties of Westmoreland and Fayette shall be a district, and shall elect one member;

The counties of Washington and Allegheny shall be a district, and shall elect one member.

Which representatives, respectively, may be taken from the state at large, provided they are otherwise qualified, according to the constitution of the United States.

[Section II.] (Section II, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the election of representatives, agreeably to the constitution of the United States, and the directions of this act, shall be held by the citizens of this state, qualified to vote for members of assembly, on the second Tuesday of October next, and on the second Tuesday of October biennially thereafter, until an enumeration of the inhabitants of the United States shall be taken, agreeably to the constitution and laws of the United States, at the same places, respectively, in the same manner, and under the care and regulation of the same officers, as in and by the several acts of assembly for the regulation of the general elections of this state is provided; of which elections public notice shall be given by the sheriffs of the several counties, at least thirty days before the said election.

[Section III.] (Section III, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That every person who shall be guilty of any neglect or abuse of any of the said acts of assembly for the regulation of elections, at any election to be held in pursuance of this act, shall be prosecuted and punished in the same manner, as if he had been guilty of the like neglect or abuse in the election of members of the legislature of this state.

[Section IV.] (Section IV, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the judges of the election in the city of Philadelphia, and in each county erected into a separate district, after having formed the return of the whole election in the said city and counties, respectively, in such manner as is by law directed, shall, within ten days, cause said returns to be delivered to the sheriff of the said city and counties, respectively, and shall also cause a duplicate thereof, signed and sealed in the same manner, to be deposited in the office of the prothonotaries of said city and counties respectively.

[Section V.] (Section V, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the judges of the elections of each of the following counties, after having formed the return of the whole election in their counties, respectively, in such manner as is by law directed, shall send the same, by one or more of their number, to the place hereafter mentioned within the district, of which such county is a part, when the judges so met shall compare and cast up the several returns, and shall execute, under their hands and seals, one general and true return of the whole district, that is to say: the judges of the district composed of the counties of Chester and Delaware shall meet at the court house, in the town of West Chester; the judges of the district composed of the counties of Bucks, Northampton and Montgomery, shall meet at the house now occupied by Jacob Fries, innkeeper, in the township of Richland, in the said county of Bucks; the judges of the district composed of the counties of Berks and Luzerne shall meet at the house now occupied by Samuel Webb, in the township of Manheim, in the said county of Berks; the judges of the district composed of the counties of Dauphin and Northumberland shall meet at the house now occupied by Matthias Deibler, in Dauphin county, on the main road leading from Harrisburg to Sunbury; the judges of the district composed of the counties of Cumberland and Mifflin shall meet at the house now occupied by John Sterrett, in the township of Greenwood, in said county of Cumberland; the judges of the district composed of the counties of Bedford, Franklin and Huntingdon, shall meet at the house now occupied by John Javison, at the place commonly known as the Burnt Cabins, in the said county of Bedford; the judges of the district composed of the counties of Westmoreland and Fayette shall meet at the house now occupied by William Latta, in the township of South Huntingdon, in the said county of Westmoreland; the judges of the district composed of the counties of Washington and Allegheny shall meet at the academy in Canonsburg, in the said county of Washington, on the third Tuesday of October next, and on the third Tuesday of October next, biennially thereafter, during the continuance of this act; and within the space of ten days after the said election, the judges of each

respective district so convened, shall cause the said general return to be delivered to the sheriff of the county in which they shall be thus convened, and shall also cause a duplicate thereof, signed and sealed in the same manner, to be deposited in the office of the prothonotary of such county.

[Section VI.] (Section VI, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That such sheriff, having received the said return, shall, within forty days after such election, deliver or safely transmit the same to the governor, who shall thereupon declare, by proclamation, the name of the person or persons to him returned as duly elected in each respective district, and shall thereafter, as soon as conveniently may be, transmit the returns so to him made, to the house of representatives of the United States.

Passed April 22, 1794. Recorded L. B. No. 5, p. 275, &c.

CHAPTER MDCCLXXVII.

AN ACT FOR THE BETTER PREVENTING OF CRIMES, AND FOR ABOLISHING THE PUNISHMENT OF DEATH IN CERTAIN CASES.

Whereas the design of punishment is to prevent the commission of crimes, and to repair the injury that hath been done thereby to society or the individual, and it hath been found by experience, that these objects are better obtained by moderate but certain penalties, than by severe and excessive punishments. And whereas it is the duty of every government to endeavor to reform, rather than exterminate offenders, and the punishment of death ought never to be inflicted where it is not absolutely necessary to the public safety. Therefore:

[Section I.] (Section I, P. L.) Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That no crime whatsoever, hereafter committed (except murder in the first degree) shall be punished with death in the state of Pennsylvania.