

7998

Pennsylvania. Province. Journals.

Votes and Proceedings of the House of Representatives

[Oct. 14, 1756 - Sept. 30, 1757.]

Philadelphia, Franklin, 1757. 168, [1], 12 pp.

LCP copy.

An ACT for Forming and Regulating the MILITIA of
the Province of Pennsylvania; which passed the House of
Assembly at their Session in March, 1757; together with
the AMENDMENTS proposed by the GOVERNOR.*

WHEREAS in this Time of actual War with the French King, and his Subjects, and his savage Indian Allies, it is absolutely necessary, for the Service of our most Gracious Sovereign, the Defence and Security of this Colony, and the Preservation of the Rights and Privileges of its Inhabitants, that the Province be put into a proper Posture of Defence, and the Inhabitants thereof duly regulated, well armed, and expertly disciplined in the Military Art, whereby they may be enabled, under the Favour and Assistance of divine Providence, to defend their Lives and Fortunes against the hostile Invasions of His Majesty's perfidious Enemies, to quell and suppress any intestine Commotions, Rebellions, or Insurrections that may happen therein, and to preserve those invaluable Rights and Privileges which they are intitled to under the present Constitution and Form of Government.

BE IT THEREFORE ENACTED by the Honourable WILLIAM DENNY, Esq; Lieutenant-Governor, under the Honourable THOMAS PENN, and RICHARD PENN, Esquires, true and absolute Proprietaries of the Province of Pennsylvania, and Counties of New-Castle, Kent and Suffex, upon Delaware, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Representatives of the Freemen of said Province, in General-Assembly met, and by the Authority of the same, That the Sheriff of each and every County of this Province, by himself or his Deputy, shall, and he is hereby impowered and required, under the Penalty of Fifty Pounds, within fifteen Days after the Publication of this Act, to issue his Precept to the Constable of every Township, Borough or Ward, in his County, ordering and directing him, within three Days after the Receipt of such Precept, to give Notice, by publick Advertisements, to the Freeholders of the Township, Borough or Ward, wherein he resides, to meet together on a certain Day, not less than three, nor more than five Days after such publick Notice given, at some convenient Place by him to be appointed and named in said Advertisements, and then and there, betwixt the Hours of Ten in the Morning and Four in the Afternoon, by Tickets in Writing, make Choice of one discreet and reputable Freeholder, of the same Township, Borough or Ward, to be an Assistant to him the said Constable in performing the Duties required by this Act; who, together with the said Assistant, shall take down in Writing the Names and Surnames of every Male Person residing in the said Township, Boroughs or Wards (Servants and Apprentices excepted) above the Age of Seventeen, and under Fifty-five Years, noting against every Name to what religious Society each Person belongs, especially such as are Papists, or reputed Papists; which said Lists the said Constables and their Assistants, respectively, shall, under the Penalty of Ten Pounds, make out and return to the Sheriff of the said County, who issued the Precept to him directed, within five Days after the said Assistant is chosen as aforesaid, and shall, upon Oath or Affirmation, declare the same to be a just and true Account, to the best of their Knowledge; which said Oath or Affirmation the said Sheriff is hereby authorized and enjoined to administer. And the Sheriff of every County within this Province, by himself, or his Deputy, with such reputable Freeholders as he shall call to his Assistance, shall, and he is hereby enjoined and required, under the Penalty of Fifty Pounds, within three Days after the said Lists shall come to his Hands as aforesaid, to divide his County into Districts or Divisions, allotting so many adjacent Townships, Boroughs and Wards together, as they shall, by the Help of said Lists, judge will furnish a Company of Male Persons capable of bearing Arms, consisting of not less than Sixty, nor exceeding an Hundred Men, exclusive of such Persons as are noted in the said Lists to belong to, or frequent those religious Societies or Congregations whose Tenets and Principles are against bearing Arms, and all Papists, and reputed Papists; *whereupon the said Sheriff, by himself or his Deputies, shall immediately*

“ As are herein after exempted from the
“ Military Duties of this Act.”

“ And the Sheriff shall, within fifteen Days
“ after such Division made, return a Dupli-
“ cate

* The Parts of the Bill rejected by the Governor are printed in Italic Characters; and the proposed Amendments and Additions distinguished by inverted Commas in the opposite Column.

