

Lawrence
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Securing the Privileges of the People. I

A C T S

A N D

L A W S,

Passed by the General Assembly of the
Representatives of the Freemen of the
State of *VERMONT*, at their
Session at *Bennington*, *February 11th*,
A. D. 1779.

An Act for securing the general Privileges of the People, and establishing Common Law and the Constitution, as Part of the Laws of this State.

FORASMUCH as the free Fruition of such Liberties and Privileges as Humanity, Civility, and Christianity call for, as due to every Man, in his Place and Proportion, without Impeachment and Infringement, hath been, and ever will be, the Tranquility and Stability of Churches and Commonwealths; and the Denial or Deprivation thereof, the Disturbance, if not Ruin of both:

Preamble:

BE IT ENACTED, and it is hereby enacted by the Representatives of the Freemen of the State of Vermont, in General Assembly met, and by the Authority of the same, That no Man's Life shall be taken away; no Man's Honor or good Name stained; no Man's Person shall be arrested, restrained, banished, dismembered, nor any Ways punished; no Man shall be deprived of his Wife or Children; no Man's Goods or Estate shall be taken away from him, nor any Ways indamaged, under Colour of Law, or Countenance of Authority; unless it be by Virtue of some express Law of this State, warranting the same, established by the General Assembly; or in Case of the Defect of such Law in any particular Case, by some plain Rule warranted by the Word of G O D.

No Man's
Person or
Property to
be damaged,
but by Law.

THAT

Forming and regulating the Militia.

An Act for forming and regulating the Militia ;
and for Encouragement of Military Skill, for the
better Defence of this State.

BE it enacted, and it is hereby enacted by the Representatives of the Freemen of
the State of Vermont, in General Assembly met, and by the Authority of the
same, That the Governor of this State, for the Time being, shall be
Captain-General and Commander in Chief; and the Deputy-Governor
for the Time being, shall be Major-General, of and over all the military
Forces within the same.

THAT all the military Companies in this State, shall be formed into
Regiments, as followeth, viz.

Bounds of
the First Re-
giment.

THAT the military Companies in the several Towns included in the
Limits hereafter described, viz. Beginning on the West Bank of *Conne-
cticut-River*, where the same enters into the State of the *Massachusetts-Bay* ;
from thence up said River to the Northeast Corner of the Township of
Westminster ; thence West by the Needle of the Compass, to the County
Line; thence Southerly on said Line, until it comes to the North Line of
the *Massachusetts-Bay* aforesaid ; from thence Easterly on said Line, to the
Place of Beginning, be, and are hereby made and declared to be one entire
and distinct Regiment; and shall be distinguished and called by the Name
of the First Regiment.

Of the 2d.

THE military Companies in the several Towns and Gores included in
the Limits hereafter described, viz. Beginning at the Southwest Corner
of the Township of *Pownal*; from thence Northerly in the Line of this
State, to the Northwest Corner of *Arlington* ; thence East a parallel Line,
until it strikes the County Line; thence Southerly on said County Line,
until it comes to the North Line of the State of *Massachusetts-Bay* ; thence
Westerly on said *Massachusetts* Line, to the Place of Beginning, be, and is
hereby made and declared to be one entire and distinct Regiment; and
shall be distinguished and called by the Name of the Second Regiment.

Of the 3d.

THE military Companies in the several Townships and Gores included
in the Limits hereafter described, viz. Beginning at the Northeast Corner
of the Township of *Westminster*, on *Connecticut-River*, and running Nor-
therly up said River, to the Southeast Corner of the Township of *Norwich* ;
thence Westerly on the Southerly Lines of the Towns of *Norwich* and
Sharon, and to continue the same Course to the County Line ; thence
Southerly on said Line, until it comes to the Northwest Corner of the
First Regiment; thence Easterly on said Line, to the Place of Beginning,
be, and is hereby made and declared to be one entire and distinct Regiment ;
and shall be distinguished and called by the Name of the Third Regiment.

Of the 4th.

THE military Companies in the several Townships and Gores included
in the Limits hereafter described, viz. Beginning at the Southeast Corner
of the Township of *Norwich*, on the West Bank of *Connecticut-River* ;
thence running Northerly on said River, until it comes to the Forty-fifth
Degree of Northern Latitude ; thence West on said Line, until it comes
to the County Line ; thence Southerly on said County Line, until it comes
to the Northwest Corner of the Third Regiment ; thence Easterly on the
North Line of said Third Regiment, to the Place of Beginning, be,
and is hereby made and declared to be one entire and distinct Regiment ;
and shall be distinguished and called by the Name of the Fourth Regiment.

THE

Forming and regulating the Militia.

THE military Companies in the several Townships and Gores included in the Limits hereafter described, viz. Beginning at the Northeast Corner of the Second Regiment; from thence running Northerly on the County Line, until it comes to the Forty-fifth Degree of North Latitude; thence running West on *Canada* Line, until it comes to *Lake-Champlain*; then turning Southerly on the West Line of this State, until it comes to the Northwest Corner of the Second Regiment; thence running Easterly with the North Line of the Second Regiment, until it comes to the first-mentioned Bounds, he, and is hereby made and declared to be one intire and distinct Regiment; and shall be distinguished and called by the Name of the Fifth Regiment.

Bounds of the 5th Regiment.

THAT where, by the aforesaid Division, or by any Division which shall be hereafter made, it shall so happen that any of the said military Companies shall be divided, and put Part into one Regiment, and Part into another Regiment; in such Case, such Company or Companies shall belong to that Regiment, to which the major Part of the Company doth belong.

Companies divided, where to belong.

THAT there shall be in each Regiment, from Time to Time, appointed by the Soldiery and Freemen within the same, a Colonel, Lieutenant-Colonel, and Major, who shall be commissioned by the Governor of this State for the Time being.

Regiments to chuse Col. &c.

THAT the Colonel, or Officer commanding in each Regiment, as often as he shall see Cause, shall require the Captain, or chief Officer of each Company in his Regiment, to meet at such Time and Place as he shall appoint, to confer with them, and give in Charge such Orders as shall by them, or the major Part of them, be judged meet, for the better ordering military Affairs, and promoting military Skill and Discipline in said Regiment.

Col. to confer with the Officers.

AND the said Colonel, Lieutenant-Colonel, and Major of each Regiment, are hereby empowered to dignify the several Companies belonging to their respective Regiments, calling to their Assistance the commissioned Officers of the respective Companies of said Regiment.

To dignify Companies.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all male Persons, from Sixteen Years of Age to fifty, shall bear Arms, and duly attend all Musters, and military Exercise of the respective Troops and Companies, where they are enlisted, or do belong, except Ministers of the Gospel, Counsellors, Justices of the Peace, the Secretary, Judges of Probate, and Superior and Inferior Courts, the President, Tutors, and Students at Collegiate Schools, Masters of Arts, allowed Physicians and Surgeons, Representatives or Deputies for the Time being, School-Masters, Attornies at Law, one Miller to each Grist-Mill, Sheriffs and Constables for the Time being, constant Jury-men, Tanners who make it their constant Business, lamed Persons, or others disabled in Body, producing a Certificate thereof from two able Physicians or Surgeons, to the Acceptance of the two chief Officers of the Company whereto the Person seeking Dismission appertains, or of the chief Officers of the Regiment to which such Company belongs.

All Males from 16 to 50, to attend military exercise, except

THAT every listed Soldier and other Householder, shall always be provided with, and have in constant Readiness, a well fixed Firelock, the Barrel not less than three Feet and a Half long, or other good Fire-arms, to the Satisfaction of the commissioned Officers of the Company to which he doth belong, or in the Limits of which he dwells; a good Sword, Cutlafs, Tomahawk or Bayonet; a Worm, and Priming-Wire, fit for each Gun; a Cartouch-Box, or Powder-Horn and Bullet-Pouch; one Pound of good Powder;

Soldiers and Housholders to be provided with Accoutrements

Forming and regulating the Militia.

Clerk to be chosen and sworn. Powder; four Pounds of Bullets fit for his Gun, and six good Flints; on Penalty of Eighteen Shillings, for want of such Arms and Ammunition as is hereby required; and Six Shillings for each Defect; and a like Sum for every four Weeks he shall remain unprovided: That each Company shall chuse some suitable Person to be Clerk; who shall be sworn to the faithful Discharge of his Office, before some Counsellor or Justice of the Peace, which Oath shall be administered in the Words following, viz.

The Oath. You ——— do solemnly swear by the everliving God, that you will faithfully execute the Office of Clerk of the military Company of Foot, commanded by Captain ——— until another shall be chosen and sworn in your Room; and will do equal Right and Justice to all Men, to the best of your Judgment and Abilities, according to Law. So help you God.

To attend and call the Roll. AND every Clerk so chosen and sworn, shall give his Attendance in the Field, with his Sword by his Side, on every of the muster or training Days, by his Captain or chief Officer appointed, to call over the Roll of the Soldiers, and to take Notice of their Defects, by their Absence or otherwise.

Clerk's duty. AND every such Clerk shall take an exact List of all the Soldiers within his Limits, twice in every Year at least, and deliver to the Captain or commanding Officer of the Company of which he is Clerk, a true Copy of such List twice in every Year if thereto required; and also deliver a true and exact Account of the Number of Officers and Soldiers contained in his List, to the Colonel or chief Officer of the Regiment to which said Company belongs, attested by him as Clerk, some Time in the Month of April annually, and oftner if by such chief Officer required; on Penalty of forfeiting the Sum of Ten Pounds for every such Neglect, to the Use of the Company to which he belongs: which Fine shall be levied by Distress and Sale of the Offender's Goods, by Warrant from the chief Officer of said Company, directed to the Constable of the Town in which said Clerk dwells.

To execute warrants for fines. AND every such Clerk is hereby authorized and required to execute all lawful Warrants, by his superior Officers to him directed, and for the levying any Fine or Fines on Delinquents, together with necessary Charges arising thereon; being by Virtue of such Warrant as fully impowered thereto as Constables are in other Cases, and shall have the same Fees, and shall account for such Fines to the chief Officer of the Company whereto he belongs.

Field Officers to call their Regiments together, &c. THAT the Colonel or chief Officer of each Regiment, shall be, and is hereby impowered and authorized, upon any Claim, Invasion, or Notice of the Appearance of an Enemy, either by Water or Land, to assemble in military Array, and put in warlike Posture, the whole Militia of the Regiment under his Command, or such Part of them as he shall think Needful; and being so alarmed, to lead, conduct, and employ them, as well within the Regiment whereto they belong, as in any other adjacent Place in this State; for the assisting, securing, and relieving, any of the Subjects of the United and Independant States of America, or their Forts, Towns, or Places, that shall be assaulted by any Enemy, or in Danger thereof; and with them, by Force of Arms, to encounter, repel, pursue, kill and destroy such Enemy, or any of them, by any fitting Ways, Enterprizes or Means whatsoever.

AND