

SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted*, That said corporation may be lawfully seized and possessed of such real estate, not exceeding the value of one hundred thousand dollars, and such personal estate, not exceeding three hundred thousand dollars, as may be necessary and convenient for carrying on the manufacture aforesaid.

[Approved by the Governor, January 20, 1814.]

CHAP. LXXV.

An Act to incorporate the President, Directors, and Company of the Augusta Bank.

SEC. 1. **B**E *it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same*, That James Bridge, William Robinson, Reuel Williams, John Eveleth, Bartholomew Nason, Samuel Howard, and James Child, their associates, successors and assigns, shall be, and hereby are created a corporation, by the name of The President, Directors, and Company of the Augusta Bank, and shall so continue until the first day of October, which will be in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-one; and by that name shall be and hereby are made capable in law to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, defend and be defended, in any Courts of Record, or any other place whatever; and also to make, have, and use a common seal, and to ordain, establish, and put in execution such by-laws, ordinances and regulations as to them may appear necessary and convenient for the government of the said corporation, and the prudent management of their affairs: *provided* such by-laws, ordinances and regulations shall in no wise be contrary to the constitution and laws of this Commonwealth; and the said corporation shall be always subject to the rules, restrictions, limitations and provisions herein prescribed.

SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted*, That the capital stock of said corporation shall consist of one hundred thousand dollars, in gold or silver, divided into shares of one hundred dollars each. The one hundred thousand dollars shall be paid in the following manner, to wit: twenty-five thous-

May hold
real and per-
sonal estate.

Persons in-
corporated.

Time incor-
porated for.

Proviso.

Amount of
capital stock
and of each
share.

and dollars shall be paid in, on or before the first day of October next; and the remaining seventy-five thousand dollars on or before the first day of October, which will be in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifteen, or by instalments in such sums and at such earlier period as the Stockholders may direct. And the Stockholders at their first meeting shall, by a majority of votes, determine the mode of transferring and disposing of said stock and the profits thereof, which being entered in the books of said corporation, shall be binding on the stockholders, their successors and assigns; and the said corporation are hereby made capable in law to have, hold, purchase, receive, possess, enjoy and retain to them, their successors and assigns, lands, rents, tenements, and hereditaments, to the amount of twenty thousand dollars, and no more at any one time, with power to bargain, sell, and dispose of the same, and to loan and negotiate their monies and effects by discounting on banking principles, on such security as they shall think advisable. *Provided however,* That nothing herein contained shall restrain or prevent the said corporation from taking and holding real estate in mortgage or on execution, to any amount, as security for or in payment of any debts due to the said corporation. *And provided further,* That no money shall be loaned, or discounts made, nor shall any bills or promissory notes be issued from said bank, until the capital subscribed, and actually paid in, and existing in gold and silver in their vaults, shall amount to twenty-five thousand dollars.

May hold
property and
amount.

Proviso.

SEC. 3. *Be it further enacted,* That the rules, limitations, provisions, restrictions and reservations which are provided in and by the third section of an act, entitled "An act to incorporate the President, Directors, and Company of the State Bank," shall be binding on the bank hereby established: *provided* that the bond required to be given by the cashier shall be in the penalty of fifteen thousand dollars, that the number of Directors to be annually chosen shall be seven, and four may constitute a quorum for transacting business. *And provided also,* That the amount of bills at any one time issued from said bank, shall not exceed fifty per cent beyond their capital stock actually paid in.

Proviso.

Debts not to
exceed fifty
per cent.

SEC. 4. *Be it further enacted,* That the said bank shall be established and kept in the town of Augusta, in the county of Kennebec.

Legislative
committee
may examine
books, &c.

SEC. 5. *Be it further enacted*, That any committee, specially appointed by the legislature for the purpose, shall have a right to examine into the doings of said corporation, and shall have free access to all their books and vaults; and if upon such examination it shall be found, and after a full hearing of the said corporation thereon be determined, by the legislature, that said corporation have exceeded the power herein granted them, or failed to comply with any of the rules, restrictions and conditions in this act provided, their incorporation may thereupon be declared forfeited and void.

May call a
meeting.

SEC. 6. *Be it further enacted*, That the persons herein before named, or any three of them, are authorised to call a meeting of the members and stockholders of said corporation, as soon as may be, at such time and place as they may see fit, (by advertising the same for three weeks successively in the Herald of Liberty printed at said Augusta,) for the purpose of making, ordaining, and establishing such by-laws, ordinances, and regulations, for the orderly conducting the affairs of the said corporation, as the said stockholders shall deem necessary, and for the choice of the first board of Directors, and such other officers as they shall see fit to choose.

Shall trans-
mit statement
of accounts.

SEC. 7. *Be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the Directors of said bank to transmit to the Governor and Council of this Commonwealth for the time being, once in six months at least, and as much oftener as they may require, accurate and just statements of the amount of the capital stock of said corporation, and of debts due to the same, of monies deposited therein, of the notes in circulation, and of the gold, silver and copper coin, and bills of other banks on hand; which statement shall be signed by the Directors, and attested by the Cashier, and shall be verified by oath or affirmation before some person competent to administer the same.

Shall pay
counterfeit-
ed notes.

SEC. 8. *Be it further enacted*, That said corporation shall be liable to pay any bona fide holder the original amount of any note of said bank, counterfeited or altered in the course of its circulation to a larger amount, notwithstanding such alteration.

SEC. 9. *Be it further enacted*, That the said corporation, from and after the first Monday of October next, shall pay, by way of tax, to the Treasurer of this Commonwealth,

for the use of the same, within ten days after each semi-annual dividend, the half of one per cent on the amount of the original stock, which shall at the time of said dividend have been actually paid in: *Provided however*, that the same tax, payable in manner aforesaid, shall be required by the Legislature of all banks that shall be hereafter incorporated within this Commonwealth. *And provided further*, that nothing herein shall be construed to impair the right of the Legislature to lay a tax upon any bank already incorporated under the authority of this Commonwealth, whenever they may see fit so to do.

SEC. 10. *Be it further enacted*, That one tenth part of the whole funds of the said bank shall always be appropriated to loans to be made to citizens of this Commonwealth, wherein the Directors shall wholly and exclusively regard the agricultural and manufacturing interest; which loans shall be made in sums not less than one hundred dollars, nor more than five hundred dollars, and upon the personal bond of the borrower, with collateral security by a mortgage of real estate, to the satisfaction of the Directors of said bank, for a term not less than one year, and on condition of paying the interest annually on such loans, subject to such forfeitures and rights of redemption as is by law provided in other cases.

SEC. 11. *Be it further enacted*, That whenever the legislature shall require it, the said corporation shall loan to the Commonwealth any sum of money which may be required, not exceeding ten per centum of the amount of the capital stock actually paid in, at any one time, reimbursable by five annual instalments, or at any other shorter period at the election of the Commonwealth, with the annual payment of interest, at a rate not exceeding five per cent per annum. *Provided however*, that the Commonwealth shall never at any one time stand indebted to said corporation, against their consent, for a larger sum than twenty per centum on the capital stock actually paid in.

SEC. 12. *Be it further enacted*, That the Commonwealth shall have a right, whenever the Legislature shall make provision by law, to subscribe, on account of the Commonwealth, a sum not exceeding fifty thousand dollars, to be added to the capital stock of said company, subject to such rules, regulations, and provisions, as shall be by the legislature made and established, as to the management thereof.

[Approved by the Governor January 21, 1814.]