

## 1780. — Chapter 44.

[April Session, ch. 20.]

AN ACT TO EMPOWER THE QUARTER-MASTER GENERAL OR HIS DEPUTIES WITHIN THIS COMMONWEALTH TO IMPRESS SUCH TEAMS AS MAY BE FOUND NECESSARY TO TRANSPORT SUPPLIES TO THE ARMY.

Chap. 44

*Whereas it frequently happens, that the Quarter Master General meets with great Difficulties in procuring such Teams as are necessary to transport such Stores and Supplies as he has Occasion to send forward to the Continental Army, by Means whereof many and great Inconveniences may arise:*

Preamble.

*Be it therefore enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That when the Quarter-Master General, or any of his Deputies shall find it necessary to transport any Kind of Stores or Supplies to the Continental Army, they, or any of them, shall represent to the Selectmen of any Town where Teams may be had, the Number of Teams necessary to transport such Stores and Supplies, and the Time they may probably be employed; and said Selectmen, or the major Part of them, shall, upon such Application, by Writing under their Hands, designate the Teams and Drivers proper to be employed and impressed; and the Quarter-Master General, or any of his Deputies, shall have full Power and Authority, after the passing of this Act, to impress or cause to be impressed all such Teams and Drivers as shall have been designated as aforesaid, for the Purpose of transporting such Stores and Supplies to the Continental Army, or any Detachment thereof, as the said Army from Time to Time shall stand in Need of.*

Quarter Master General or his Deputies to represent to the Selectmen of the Town where Teams are to be had, of the Number wanted.

*Provided, No Team impressed as aforesaid, shall be obliged to go further than Fifty Miles.*

*And be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if the Selectmen of any Town having been applied to by the Quarter-Master General, or any of his Deputies for Assistance in procuring Teams and Drivers and shall refuse or neglect to assist said Quarter-Masters, or their Deputies; every Selectman so neglecting and refusing, shall, for each Neglect or Refusal, forfeit and pay to the Use of such Person or Persons as may sue for the same, the Sum of *Three Pounds*, to be recovered by Action of*

Quarter Master General or his Deputies empowered to impress.

Upon Application to Selectmen for Assistance and refused.

Penalty.

Selectmen to keep regular Accounts of Time and Expences, and to exhibit the same to the Committee on Accounts for Allowance.

Debt in any Court of Record proper to try the same. And the Selectmen of the several Towns, who may be called upon from Time to Time to perform the Duty assigned them in this Act, shall keep regular Accounts of their Time and Expences relative to the same, and shall exhibit their Accounts, on Oath, to the Committee on Accounts for Allowance and Payment, which Committee are hereby authorised to allow all such Accounts as to them shall appear just and reasonable.

Owners of Teams impressed shall neglect to transport Stores.

And be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if the Owner or Driver of any Team impressed as aforesaid, and having had due Notice thereof, shall neglect or refuse to take up and transport to the Place of Destination, such Stores and Supplies for the Army as the Quarter Master General, or either of his Deputies shall judge necessary to be immediately sent forward; every Owner of such Team, or Driver, so neglecting or refusing, shall forfeit and pay to the Use of such Person or Persons as may sue for the same, the Sum of *Six Pounds* to be recovered by Action of Debt in any Court of Record proper to try the same.

Penalty.

Owners of Teams impressed to furnish Forage and Provision, if required.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Owner and Driver of any Team, impressed as aforesaid, shall furnish himself with sufficient Forage and Provision for himself and Team to travel fifty Miles, if thereto required, on Penalty of the same Fine as is provided in the preceeding Clause in Case of Neglect, and to be recovered and appropriated in the same Manner. And every Teamster shall procure a Certificate from the Quarter-Master or Conductor, specifying the length of Way and Quantity of Loading by him transported, and in what Part of the State; and also keep an Account of his own Time and Expences in said Service, and lay the same before the General Court for Allowance and Settlement, which Accounts, when allowed, shall be paid out of the next State Tax.

Teamsters to procure Certificates from the Quarter Master.

To lay their Accounts before the General Court.

May 18, 1781.

## 1780. — Chapter 45.

[April Session, ch. 21.]

Chap. 45 AN ACT FOR THE ESTABLISHING OF A SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT IN THE COUNTY OF BERKSHIRE.

Preamble.

Whereas upon the Establishment of the New Constitution of Government for this Commonwealth, it is found expedient and necessary, that there should be a Supreme