

CHAPTER 25.

AN ACT FOR PREVENTING THE OPERATION OF AN ACT MADE IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY, ENTITLED "AN ACT FOR REPEALING THE SEVERAL LAWS NOW IN FORCE WHICH RELATE TO THE LIMITATION OF PERSONAL ACTIONS, AND FOR THE LIMITATION OF PERSONAL ACTIONS FOR THE FUTURE, AND FOR AVOIDING SUITS AT LAW."

Preamble.

1770-71, chap. 9.

WHEREAS, considering the present state of our public affairs, the limitation of actions and suits, according to the provision made in and by said act, wou[ld] be the means of much injustice to many persons now employed in the service of their country, necessarily absent from their homes, and occasion a multiplicity of lawsuits, contrary to the inclination of many creditors, who wou[ld] thereby be compelled to commence and prosecute the same to the great gr[ea]t[er]vance of many good people of this state; for the preventing whereof, —

Be it enacted by the Council and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,

To suspend the operation of this act until the 1st day of December, 1778.

That the operation of the said act shall be stayed and suspended until [the] first day of December, which will be in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-eight, and that any actions or suits may be commenced and prosecuted in any of the courts of record, or before any of the justices of the peace, within this state, during that term, in like manner and form, to all intents and purposes, as they might have been commenced and prosecuted in case the said act, or any of the acts or laws relating to the limitation of personal actions which are repealed by the same act, had never been made. [Passed December 3.]

CHAPTER 26.

AN ACT FOR MAKING AND EMITTING BILLS OF PUBLIC CREDIT.

Preamble.

WHEREAS the exigencies of this state require a new emission of bills of public credit, to discharge the debts thereof which have or may be contracted, —

Be it therefore enacted by the Council and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,

Bills of several denominations to be emitted.

[SECT. 1.] That there be forthwith stamped, on copperplates, a number of bills of credit, of this state, to the amount of twenty thousand and thirty-four pounds, of the following denominations; viz., of ten shillings, of fourteen shillings, of sixteen shillings, of twenty-two shillings, of twenty-eight shillings, of thirty-six shillings, of forty-two shillings, and of forty-eight shillings; and to be eighteen hundred and fifty-five bills of each denomination and no more: and that they be of the tenor and form following; viz., —

16 s.	State of Massachusetts Bay.	} ()	November 17th, 1776.	16 s.
The possessor of this bill shall be paid, by the treasurer of this state, sixteen shillings, lawful mon[e]y, by the 7th day of Dec[embe]r, 1781; which bill shall be received for the aforesaid sum, in all payments at the treasury, and in all other payments. By order of the general assembly.				
16 s.			} Committee.	16 s.

Form of the bills.

— and so, *mutatis mutandis*, for a greater or less sum; and that, on the back of each bill, shall be stamped the value of such bill, its date, and the figure of an American, with a sword in his right hand, with the following inscription suspended therefrom; viz., “*Euse petit placidam sub liberate qui[e]tem*;” and from his left hand, IND., and round the figure these words, “Issued in Defence of American Liberty.”

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,

[SECT. 2.] That said bills shall be paid and received in the public treasury, and in all payments in this state, for the sum therein expressed, without any abatement or discount, under the penalty of the forfeiture of treble the value of such bill or bills so passed, and costs, to be paid and forfeited by the receiver; and may be recovered by action of debt, complaint or indictment, in any court proper to try the same, in the county, in this state, where the offence shall be committed.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,

[SECT. 3.] That the committee hereafter to be appointed by this court, to authenticate, by numbering and signing, said bills, be, and they hereby are, directed and empower[ed] to cause said bills, of the several denominations aforesaid, to be authenticated to the amount of said sum of twenty thousand and thirty-four pounds, and no more; and to deliver the same to the treasurer and receiver-general of this state, taking his receipt for the same; and the said committee shall be under oath for the faithful discharge of the trust reposed in them, and be rewarded for their services as this court shall determine.

Committee to number and sign the bills.

To be sworn.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,

[SECT. 4.] That the treasurer be and hereby is ordered and empowered to issue forth and emit the said bills, towards payment of the debts of this state, of grants and allowances made, or that may hereafter be made, by the general court, for the defence of this and the other states of America, for support of government of this state, and answering all other incidental or contingent charges thereof, according to such drafts as, from time to time, shall be made upon him, by warrant or order of the council in pursuance of the resolves or orders of the general assembly.

Treasurer empowered to issue forth said bills.

And whereas, it is necessary that there should be made suitable provision for calling in and sinking said emission of bills, —

Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,

[SECT. 5.] That there be and hereby is granted a tax of twenty thousand and thirty-four pounds, to be levied on the polls, and estates both real and personal, within this state, according to such rules and proportions, in the several towns and other places within this state, as shall be agreed upon and ordered by the general court or assembly at their session in May, A. D. 1780, and to be paid into the public treasury on or before the last day of March then next after.

Tax to be levied on polls and estates, for calling in and paying the same.

Bills of credit of the United States, to be received.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,
[SECT. 6.] That no bills of credit shall be received in payment of the tax before mentioned, except bills of credit of the United States establish[e]’d by the American Congress and the bills of this government.

Towns' and other places' apportionment of the tax.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,
[SECT. 7.] That if the general court or assembly, at their session in May, A. D. 1780, and some time before the 20th day of September, in that year, shall not agree and conclude upon an act apportioning the sum which by this act is engaged to be, in that year, assessed and levied, that then and in that case each town and other place in this state shall pay, by a tax to be levied on polls, and estates both real and personal, within their limits, the same proportion of that sum as such town or other place was taxed by the general court in the tax act then last preceding.

State treasurer empowered to issue forth his warrants to the selectmen in each town, to assess, etc.

[SECT. 8.] And the treasurer of this state is hereby impowered and directed, some time in the month of September, in the last-mentioned year, to issue and send forth his warrants, directed to the selectmen or assessors of each town within this state, and to some suitable person or persons in such place or places as are not incorporated, requiring him or them to assess the polls, and estates both real and personal, within their several towns and other places, for their respective parts and proportions of the sum before directed and engaged to be assessed, to be paid into the treasury at the time before mentioned; and the assessors, as also all persons assessed, shall observe, be govern[e]’d by, and subject to, all such rules and directions as shall have been given in the then last preceding tax act.

Bills to be signed by any two of the committee.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,
[SECT. 9.] That each of the bills emitted by this act shall be signed by any two of the committee aforementioned[e]’d.

Bills emitted, to be received in all payments and may be pleaded in any action.

And be it further enacted,
[SECT. 10.] That the several bills of credit emitted by this act shall be received in all payments within this state, and a tender of the same may be pleaded, and have the same effect, in any action which is or may be brought for the recovery of any money, or species of money, due by deed or simple contract, or in any other way or manner whatever, in the same manner as a tender of the like sum in silver or gold may be pleaded. [*Passed December 6.*]

CHAPTER 27.

AN ACT TO SUPPLY THE TREASURY WITH THE SUM OF TWO HUNDRED AND SIX THOUSAND AND FOUR HUNDRED POUNDS.

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is necessary, immediately, to make provision to enable the treasurer of this state to answer the draughts made on him for the payment of the bounty-money granted by the general court of this state to the soldiers rais[e]d by this state to be inlisted into the Continental service, —