

## ACTS

PASSED AT THE SESSION BEGUN AND HELD AT BOSTON,  
ON THE SIXTH DAY OF JANUARY, A. D. 1779.

## CHAPTER 25.

AN ACT MORE EFFECTUALLY TO PUNISH PERSONS WHO SHALL BE  
CONVICTED OF WILFULLY AND CORRUPTLY PASSING COUNTERFEIT  
BILLS OF PUBLIC CREDIT.

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

[SECT. 1.] That any person who shall hereafter be convicted before the superiour court of judicature, court of assize and general goal delivery, of hereafter wilfully, wittingly and deceitfully passing any counterfeit bill, made in imitation of the true bills of public credit of the United States of America, or either of them, shall be fined, to the use of the government, a sum not exceeding five thousand pounds, at the discretion of the court before whom the conviction may be.

Penalty for passing counterfeit bills of public credit of the United States of America 1775-76, chap. 18. 1776-77, chaps. 44 and 47.

*And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,*

[SECT. 2.] That when any person shall hereafter be convicted of passing, deceitfully, wilfully and corruptly, any counterfeit and false bill made in imitation of the true bills of credit of the United States of America, or either of them, before the passing this act — and for which crime he shall be liable to be imprisoned or set on the gallows — and the said person so convicted shall, before sentence passed upon him, by memorial, in writing, petition the court before whom the conviction may be, that they would, instead of such imprisonment or setting on the gallows, set a fine upon him, the same court shall be fully [i][e]mpowered to omit, in their sentence, ordering such person, so convicted, to be set on the gallows or imprisoned, and to fine him, to the use of the government, in a sum not exceeding the sum of five thousand pounds. [Passed January 22, 1779.]

Persons convicted, to sit on the gallows, or fined in the sum of £5,000.