

said Bridge for passengers. *Provided* that the Legislature shall have a right after thirty years, to regulate the same. Proviso.

And be it further Enacted that if the said proprietors shall neglect for the space of four years from the first day of May next to build the said bridge, then this Act shall become void. To be built within four years.

Approved June 18, 1796.

1796. — Chapter 25.

[May Session, ch. 23.]

AN ACT TO CEDE TO THE UNITED STATES THE JURISDICTION OF THE TRACTS OF LAND, WHICH SHALL BE REQUIRED FOR THE LIGHT HOUSES, AUTHORISED BY CONGRESS TO BE ERECTED UPON BAKER'S ISLAND AND CAPE COD.

Be it enacted by the Senate & house of Representatives in general Court Assembled, & by the Authority of the same, that the United States of America may purchase or take as hereinafter is provided, any tracts of Land which shall be found necessary & convenient for the Lighthouses authorized by Congress to be erected upon Baker's Island, & upon Cape Cod; within this Commonwealth, & during the continuance of the Use & appropriation aforesaid, The jurisdiction of such tracts of land, not exceeding the quantity of ten Acres for each Lighthouse; shall be, & hereby is, ceded to, & shall be in, the said United States; saving & *provided always* that all civil & criminal processes issued under the Authority, or by any Officers of this Commonwealth, shall have full force & effect within the said Tracts of land, And any buildings which shall be there erected, this Cession of Jurisdiction notwithstanding. Lands ceded.

And be it further Enacted that if the Agent or person employed for the United States, & the Owner or Owners of any Tract or Tracts of Land which shall be found necessary & convenient for the said Light Houses, cannot agree in a sale & purchase thereof such Agent or person employed may apply to any Court of General Sessions of the Peace which shall be holden within & for the County wherein such land lies, who shall & may appoint a Committee, of three freeholders, impartial men, to determine a just equivalent to the Owner or Owners of such land, which Committee shall be sworn before some Justice of the Peace for the faithful discharge of their Trust; & shall forthwith proceed to view, set off & appraise such Tract or Differences with owners of lands, — how to be adjusted.

Tracts of Land; and shall make return of their doings to the same Court; & which award & return being accepted by the Court & the amount of such appraisement being paid to the Owner or Owners of the Land appraised & set off by such Committee or, if the Owner or Owners shall not appear or shall refuse to receive the same, to such person or Corporation for the use of the Owner or Owners, as the same Court shall order, the Tract or Tracts of land so appraised & set off, shall be vested in the United States and shall & may be taken, possessed & appropriated for the purposes aforesaid. *Provided* that all charges of such application & appraisement shall be paid by the United States; and *Provided* that the land which may be set off for the purposes of this Act, shall not exceed the quantity of ten acres in the whole for each Light House, including and reckoning therewith, any Land purchased for the same.

Provisos.

Approved June 18, 1796.

1796. — Chapter 26.

[November Session, ch. 2.]

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE HOLDING OF A COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, WITHIN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, TO PREVENT A FAILURE OF JUSTICE IN THAT COUNTY.

Preamble.

Whereas the Court of Common Pleas which by Law was to have been holden at Newbury Port, within and for the County of Essex, on the first Tuesday of October, in the Year of our Lord, one thousand, seven hundred and ninety six, was not holden at that time, nor adjourned by proclamation to any future time, by reason that there were not two Justices of the said Court present at the said time and place for holding the same, whereby all the suits and matters pending in the same Court, either by continuance or on original process returnable thereto will be deemed and taken to be discontinued, without some provision is made therefor by Law: — Therefore

Be it Enacted by the Senate & House of Representatives in General Court assembled & by the authority of the same, that the Court of Common Pleas, which by law was to have been holden at Newbury Port within & for the County of Essex on the first Tuesday of October in the Year of Our Lord, one thousand, seven hundred & ninety six shall and may be holden at Newbury Port within & for the same County, on the first Tuesday, of January which

Court when to be holden.