

Chap. 231

AN ACT in relation to Worthless Bank Bills.

*Be it enacted, &c., as follows :*Penalty for hav-
ing in possession.

SECTION 1. If any person shall have in his possession at the same time, five or more uncurrent bank bills or notes, which are worthless as bank bills or notes, knowing the same to be worthless as aforesaid, or papers not bank bill or notes, but made, in the similitude of bank bills or notes, or papers purporting to be the bills or notes of any bank which has never existed, knowing the character of such papers, with intent to pass, utter or circulate the same, or to procure any other person to do so, for the purpose of injuring or defrauding, he shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for not more than five years, or by fine not exceeding five hundred dollars, and by imprisonment in the house of correction not exceeding three years.

Uttering or pass-
ing.

SECTION 2. Any person who shall utter or pass, or tender in payment as true, any such worthless or uncurrent bank bill or note, or any paper not a bank bill or note, but made in the similitude of a bank bill or note, or any paper purporting to be the bill or note of any bank which has never existed, knowing the same to be worthless and uncurrent, as aforesaid, with intent to injure and defraud, shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for not more than five years, or by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars, and by imprisonment in the house of correction not exceeding three years.

Officer shall pro-
ceed as provided
in chapter 168 of
1855.

SECTION 3. Whenever any worthless and uncurrent bank bills or notes, or papers described in this act, shall come to the possession of any sheriff, constable, police officer, or other officer of justice, the same proceedings shall be had in relation to them, as is provided in the one hundred and sixty-eighth chapter of the acts of the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, in relation to counterfeit bank bills.

Powers and du-
ties of banks.

SECTION 4. Every bank now established, or which may be established in this Commonwealth, shall have the same powers, and be subject to the same duties, in relation to the bank bills, notes and papers in this act described, as are now provided in the three hundred and seventy-eighth chapter of the acts of the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three, in relation to counterfeit and altered bills, except that instead of the word "counterfeit," or "altered," the word "worthless," shall be stamped thereon. [*Approved May 26, 1857.*]