

An ACT for the relief of disabled and maimed officers, soldiers, marines and seamen, Lib. GR. fol. 298. Passed 15th of Dec. 1778.

Supplementary and other acts 1784, ch. 72, and November, 1788, ch. 7.

WHEREAS it is thought just and expedient, that some provision should be made to such officers, soldiers, marines and seamen, as have been or may be disabled or maimed in the service of the United States, during the present war with Great-Britain; Preamble.

II. BE IT ENACTED, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That every commissioned officer, non-commissioned officer and private soldier, who have or shall lose a limb, or have been or shall be so disabled in the service of the United States of America, as to render him incapable of getting a livelihood, and who, at the time of entering into the service of the said United States, was or shall be enlisted or recruited by this state, shall receive during his life, or the continuance of such disability, the one half of his monthly pay, from and after the time that his pay as an officer or soldier ceases; and that every commander of any ship of war or armed vessel, commissioned officer, warrant officer, marine or seaman, belonging to the United States of America, who have or shall lose a limb, or have been or shall be otherwise so disabled in the service of the said states, as to be rendered incapable of getting a livelihood, and who, at the time of engaging in the said service, was or shall be enlisted or recruited by this state, shall receive during his life, or continuance of such disability, the one half of his monthly pay, from and after the time that his pay as an officer, or marine or seaman, ceases, to be paid as hereafter mentioned. Disabled officers to receive half pay, &c.

III. PROVIDED NEVERTHELESS, That in case a prize was or shall be taken at the time such loss of limb or other disability did or shall happen, then such sum as he has received, or may receive, out of the net profits of such prize, before a dividend is made of the same, agreeable to the orders of congress, shall be considered as part of his half pay, and computed accordingly. Proviso.

IV. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That every commissioned officer, non-commissioned officer, and private soldier, in the army, and every commander, commissioned officer, warrant officer, marine or seaman, of any of the ships of war or armed vessels belonging to the United States of America, who have been or shall be wounded in any engagement, so as to be rendered incapable of serving in the army or navy, though not totally disabled from getting a livelihood, and who, at the time of entering into the service of the said states, was or shall be enlisted or recruited by this state, shall receive such monthly sum as shall be adjudged adequate by the justices of the orphans court of the county in which such commissioned officer or private soldier of the army, or commander, commissioned officer, warrant officer, or seaman, of the navy, shall reside, provided the same does not exceed his half pay. Officers, &c. to receive a sum monthly, &c.

V. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the justices of the orphans courts (a) in the several counties of this state shall, and they are hereby authorized and empowered, at the meeting of the said orphans court, once in every quarter of the year, on application made to them by any person, agreeable to the direction and meaning of this act, to draw on the treasurer of the western or eastern shore of this state, for such sum or sums of money as may be necessary for answering the purposes aforesaid, and so to renew such orders quarterly, during the lives of the said persons entitled to receive their half pay as aforesaid, and during such time as the said justices shall deem such persons not totally disabled as aforesaid, entitled to receive the allowance by them directed to be made as above mentioned, which the treasurer is hereby required to pay and discharge; (b) and, for the better charging the said United States therewith, so that the same may be brought into a general account, the justices of the said courts are hereby enjoined to cause due entries to be made in their proceedings, of the name or names of all persons to whom draughts or orders shall be given in pursuance of this act; also of their places of residence, in what regiment or company they served, the engagement or action in which they received their wounds, and the sums allotted them, also of the death of such disabled persons, or ceasing of such allowance; an account of all which they shall transmit, or cause to be transmitted, to the governor and council, on or before the first day of May in every year, on pain of forfeiting, for

(a) By 1784, ch. 72, the execution of so much of this act as relates to commissioned officers of the Maryland line, is placed in the hands of the governor, who is to exercise all the powers of the orphans court.

(b) By November, 1788, ch. 7, the justices of the orphans court were directed to draw quarterly on the county collectors, and if not paid, on the treasurers. The payments are now made by the general government, at the office of the commissioner of loans.