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# GEORGII III. REGIS.

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## C A P. LXXVI.

An Act for the more secure Conveyance of Ship Letters, and for granting to His Majesty certain Rates of Postage thereon. [12th *July* 1799.]

Most gracious Sovereign,

Preamble.

WHEREAS it may be expedient for the Benefit of Commerce and Correspondence, that Permission be given to His Majesty's Postmaster General to receive Letters and Packets, in order to be conveyed to and from Places within His Majesty's Dominions, also to and from every or any the Kingdoms and Countries beyond the Seas, by Ships and Vessels (other than Packet Boats); and also, that the Postmaster General be authorized to demand and receive certain Rates of Postage for such Conveyance of the said Letters and Packets: We, therefore, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Commons of *Great Britain*, in Parliament assembled, have freely and voluntarily resolved to give and grant unto Your Majesty the Rates and Duties herein-after mentioned; and do most humbly beseech Your Majesty that it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That, from and after the passing of this Act, it shall and may be lawful to and for His Majesty's Postmaster General, and his Deputy and Deputies by him thereunto authorized, in his and their Discretion, to collect and receive Letters, and Packets of Letters, directed to Places within His Majesty's Dominions, also to any the

Postmaster General may forward Letters by other Vessels than Packet Boats.

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the Kingdoms and Countries beyond the Seas, and to forward the ſame by any Ships or Veſſels that he, in his Diſcretion, ſhall think fit (although not Packet Boats); and alſo, that it ſhall and may be lawful to and for His ſaid Majeſty's Poſtmaſter General, and his Deputy and Deputies by him thereunto authorized, to and for the Uſe of His Majeſty, His Heirs and Succeſſors, to demand, have, receive, and take, for every Letter and Packet which ſhall be delivered to him or his Deputies for Conveyance in the Manner herein-before ſpecified, a Sum not leſs than One Half Part of the Rates and Duties payable by Law for ſuch reſpective Letters and Packets, if the ſame were conveyed by Packet Boats; and in Caſes where no Rate of Poſtage is already eſtabliſhed, then to demand, have, receive, and take, for ſuch Letters and Packets, Rates, as near as the ſame can be aſcertained, equal to One Half of what is now paid for Letters ſent beyond the Seas; any Law, Statute, Cuſtom, or Uſage, to the contrary thereof notwithſtanding.

and take Rates for the Conveyance, as herein preſcribed.

Poſtmaſter General may take for Letters brought by other Veſſels than Packet Boats, 4 *d.* for every ſingle Letter in Addition to the inland Poſtage;

II. And be it further enacted, That it ſhall and may be lawful to and for the ſaid Poſtmaſter General to demand, have, receive, and take for every Letter and Packet which ſhall be brought by Ships and Veſſels (other than Packet Boats) in the Manner herein-before mentioned, from Places within His Majeſty's Dominions, and from any the Kingdoms and Countries beyond the Seas into *Great Britain*, to be conveyed by inland Carriage or Poſtage, the Sum of Four-pence for every ſingle Letter, and ſo in Proportion for Packets, in addition to any inland or internal Poſtage which may ariſe upon the inland Conveyance of ſuch Letters and Packets; and for the Encouragement of the Maſters of ſuch Ships or Veſſels, it ſhall be lawful for the Poſtmaſter General to allow all ſuch Maſters the Sum of Two-pence a Letter or Packet upon all ſuch Letters and Packets as they ſhall reſpectively have or take on board ſuch Veſſel or Veſſels, provided ſuch Letters and Packets ſhall have been delivered to them from the Poſt Office; and in like Manner, on their Arrival from Parts beyond the Seas, on their delivering unto the Deputy or Deputies of the Poſtmaſter General for ſuch Place or Poſt Town at which they ſhall touch or arrive, it ſhall be lawful to pay to ſuch Maſters of Ships and Veſſels the Sum of Two-pence a Letter or Packet for all ſuch Letters and Packets as they ſhall reſpectively have on board; provided that ſuch Letters and Packets ſhall have been regularly delivered unto the ſaid Maſters by the Deputy or Deputies of the Poſtmaſter General, or any other Perſons to be authorized by him, at the Place or Poſt Town from whence ſuch Ships or Veſſels have ſailed or departed.

and may allow the Maſters of Veſſels 2 *d.* for every Letter they receive from or deliver to the Poſt Office.

Poſtmaſter General to cauſe Poſtage to be paid either prior to the Letters being forwarded, or on Delivery.

III. And be it further enacted, That it ſhall and may be lawful to and for the ſaid Poſtmaſter General to cauſe the Rates of Poſtage hereby chargeable and payable to be paid either prior to ſuch Letters and Packets being forwarded, or on Delivery thereof, as to him in his Diſcretion may ſeem meet.

Money ariſing by the Rates to be paid into the Exchequer.

IV. And be it further enacted, That the Monies to ariſe by the Rates and Duties aforeſaid (except the Monies which ſhall be neceſſary to defray ſuch Expences as ſhall be incurred in the Collection and Management of the ſame) ſhall be paid into the Receipt of the Exchequer, and carried to and made a Part of the Conſolidated Fund, and applied to

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ſuch and the ſame Uſes as the preſent Rates and Duties of Poſtage are now, or ſhall be directed to be paid and applied.

V. And be it further enacted, That if any Perſon or Perſons ſhall, at any Time or Times, be ſued, moleſted, or proſecuted, for any Thing by him or them done or executed in purſuance of this Act, or of any Clauſe, Matter, or Thing herein contained, ſuch Perſon and Perſons ſhall and may plead the General Iſſue, and give the Special Matter in Evidence for his or their Defence; and if upon the Trial a Verdict ſhall paſs for the Defendant or Defendants, or the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs ſhall become nonſuited, then ſuch Defendant or Defendants ſhall have Treble Coſts awarded to him or them againſt ſuch Plaintiff or Plaintiffs.

Perſons ſued for any Thing done under this Act may plead the General Iſſue, &c.

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