

Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In the House of representatives. June 16, 1781. Whereas it is now absolutely necessary that the whole number of men required of the several towns and plantations in this Commonwealth ... [Boston, Printed by Benjamin Edes and sons, 1781].

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Commonwealth of *Massachusetts*.

In the HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES, *June* 16, 1781.

WHEREAS *it is now absolutely necessary that the whole number of men required of the several towns and plantations in this Commonwealth, by a resolve of the General Court of the 2d of December last, as their proportion of this State's quota of the Continental army, should be immediately compleated:*

It is *Resolved*, That the several towns and plantations within this State, which have not already complied with the requisition aforesaid, be called on immediately to comply with said requisition, by raising the full number of men therein assigned them, and causing them to be mustered and delivered to the Superintendant, on or before the 30th day of *June* instant; and that in case of failure herein, the commanding officer of each company, or in any town or company where there are no militia officers, the Selectmen of each town, or the Committee of each plantation (as the case may be) within forty-eight hours after the expiration of the said 30th day of *June*, proceed to draught so many men as the said towns or plantations respectively are deficient, from the delinquent classes in said towns or plantations; or where the inhabitants of any town or plantation may not be classed, that in such case the commanding officer, Selectmen or Committees aforesaid (as the case may be) proceed to draught as aforesaid, from the train-band and alarm-list, as many men as the said town or plantation may be deficient, to do duty in the Continental army for three years, from the first day of *July* next, unless sooner discharged, unless such delinquent town, plantation or class, shall, previous to the expiration of the forty-eight hours aforesaid, procure the number of men required of them to do duty in the Continental army till the first day of *January* next.

And it is also *Resolved*, That such delinquent towns, plantations and classes, as shall procure the number of men required of them respectively, to do duty as aforesaid till the said 1st day of *January* next, instead of procuring them for three years, agreeable to the said requisition of the 22d of *December* last, be held to keep up the full number of men required of them by said requisition, by

draught or otherwise, without further charge to the Commonwealth, than if the said men had been inlisted for three years.

And it is also *Resolved*, That the men procured as aforesaid, to do duty 'till the said 1st of *January* next, be held in service 'till others are procured and accepted in their room.

And it is further *Resolved*, That each man draughted as aforesaid, be held as a soldier, unless he shall, within 48 hours after the time of his being draughted, procure some able-bodied effective man in his room.

And it is also *Resolved*, That whatever sum or sums any person or persons, who may be draughted as aforesaid, shall give to procure a soldier or soldiers, in his or their room, be averaged by the assessors of the several towns respectively, and assessed in due proportions on the town, plantation or class, for which such person or persons shall be draughted. And in case any person, after being draughted as aforesaid, shall voluntarily inlist, or at his own cost and charge procure an able-bodied effective man, to inlist for three years or during the war, such person shall be entitled to receive from the town, plantation or class (as the case may be) for which he may be draughted, the average price which shall appear to have been given as a bounty to the men that are or shall be raised, agreeable to the said requisition of 2d of *December* last, with twenty-five per cent. added thereto.

And it is further *Resolved*, That if any militia officer, selectmen, or committees, shall neglect or refuse to comply with the duties by these resolves enjoined them, such officer, selectmen or committee (as the case may be) shall be subject to a fine for each man that the said town, plantation or company (as the case may be) shall be deficient, equal to what shall appear to be the average price given as a bounty to such soldiers as are raised agreeable to the said requisition of the 2d *December* last, together with fifty per cent. added thereto. And where there are any of that denomination of christians called quakers, the militia officers, selectmen and committees (as the case may be) shall proceed with them agreeably to the directions of an act, entitled "An act for forming and regulating the militia within the Commonwealth of *Massachusetts*, and for repealing all the laws heretofore made for that purpose."

And lest doubts should arise with respect to the persons intended in these resolves by militia officers:

It is *Resolved*, That such officers as have been elected agreeable to the militia act of this Commonwealth, and have declared their acceptance thereof, although they may not as yet have been commissioned agreeable to the constitution, be, and they hereby are authorized and required, to perform all the duties by these resolutions enjoined on the officers of the militia.

And that the men by these resolves proposed to be raised may be sent forward to the army with all possible expedition:

It is further *Resolved*, That the militia officers, Selectmen, and Committees aforesaid (as the case may be) be, and they hereby are required, to cause the men procured as aforesaid, to be murdered and delivered to the Superintendants of their respective counties, within seven days after they shall have engaged in the service.

And in order as much as possible to expedite the filling up the Continental army, and removing so far as may be every embarrassment thereto:

It is further *Resolved*, That from and after the 20th day of *June* instant, the several towns, plantations and classes respectively, be, and they hereby are authorized and allowed, to hire the men by these resolves required of them, in any other towns, plantations or classes within this State, who have raised the men required of them by the resolution of the second of *December* last, or until the first of *January* next, agreeable to this resolve, anything in any former acts or resolves of the General Court to the contrary not with standing.

It is also *Resolved*, That the Superintendants of the several counties in this State be, and they hereby are ordered and directed, on or before the 15th day of *July* next, to make all such returns to the Secretary's office, of the men by these resolutions proposed to be raised, as by former resolves for raising this State's quota of the Continental army are enjoined on them.

Sent up for concurrence.

NATHANIEL GORHAM, Speaker.

In Senate, *June* 16, 1781. Read and Concurred.

SAMUEL ADAMS. President.

Approved, JOHN HANCOCK.

True copy, Attest. JOHN AVERY, Sec'y.