

CHAP. LII. — *An Act to prevent Officers of the Army and Navy, and other Persons engaged in the military and naval Service of the United States, from interfering in Elections in the States.*

Feb. 25, 1865.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it shall not be lawful for any military or naval officer of the United States, or other person engaged in the civil, military, or naval service of the United States, to order, bring, keep, or have under his authority or control, any troops or armed men at the place where any general or special election is held in any state of the United States of America, unless it shall be necessary to repel the armed enemies of the United States, or to keep the peace at the polls. And that it shall not be lawful for any officer of the army or navy of the United States to prescribe or fix, or attempt to prescribe or fix, by proclamation, order, or otherwise, the qualifications of voters in any state of the United States of America, or in any manner to interfere with the freedom of any election in any state, or with the exercise of the free right of suffrage in any state of the United States. Any officer of the army or navy of the United States, or other person engaged in the civil, military, or naval service of the United States, who violates this section of this act, shall, for every such offence, be liable to indictment as for a misdemeanor, in any court of the United States having jurisdiction to hear, try, and determine cases of misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof shall pay a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars, and suffer imprisonment in the penitentiary not less than three months, nor more than five years, at the discretion of the court trying the same; and any person convicted as aforesaid shall, moreover, be disqualified from holding any office of honor, profit, or trust, under the government of the United States: *Provided,* That nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to prevent any officers, soldiers, sailors, or marines, from exercising the right of suffrage in any election district to which he may belong, if otherwise qualified according to the laws of the state in which he shall offer to vote.

Interference in elections by certain officers prohibited.

Qualifications of voters not to be prescribed

Penalty for violation of this act.

Suffrages of officers, &c., not interfered with

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That any officer or person in the military or naval service of the United States, who shall order or advise, or who shall directly or indirectly, by force, threat, menace, intimidation, or otherwise, prevent or attempt to prevent any qualified voter of any state of the United States of America from freely exercising the right of suffrage at any general or special election in any state of the United States, or who shall in like manner compel, or attempt to compel, any officer of an election in any such state to receive a vote from a person not legally qualified to vote, or who shall impose or attempt to impose any rules or regulations for conducting such election different from those prescribed by law, or interfere in any manner with any officer of said election in the discharge of his duties, shall for any such offence be liable to indictment as for a misdemeanor, in any court of the United States having jurisdiction to hear, try, and determine cases of misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof shall pay a fine of not exceeding five thousand dollars, and suffer imprisonment in the penitentiary not exceeding five years, at the discretion of the court trying the same, and any person convicted as aforesaid shall, moreover, be disqualified from holding any office of honor, profit, or trust, under the government of the United States.

Interfering with elections, how punished.

APPROVED, February 25, 1865.

CHAP. LIII. — *An Act to increase the Efficiency of the Medical Corps of the Army.*

Feb. 25, 1865.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the medical director of an army in the field consisting of two or more army corps, and the medical director of a military department in which there are United States general hospitals containing four thousand beds or upwards, shall have the rank, pay, and emoluments of a colonel of cavalry; and the medical di-

Rank and pay of certain medical directors.

Increase, how long to continue. Assignments to duty.

rector of an army corps in the field, or of a department in which there are United States general hospitals containing less than four thousand beds, shall have the rank, pay, and emoluments of a lieutenant-colonel of cavalry. But this increased rank and pay shall only continue to medical officers while discharging such special duties; and the assignments from time to time to such duty shall be at least two thirds of them made from among the surgeons and assistant surgeons of volunteers.

APPROVED, February 25, 1865.

Feb. 25, 1865.

CHAP. LIV. — *An Act to create the Eastern Judicial District of the State of New York.*

Eastern judicial district in New York created.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the counties of Kings, Queens, Suffolk, and Richmond, in the State of New York, with the waters thereof, are hereby constituted a separate judicial district of the United States, to be styled the eastern district of New York. The President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint a district judge for said district who shall reside therein, and who shall possess the same powers and perform the same duties within said district which are now possessed and performed by the district judge of the southern district of New York. The said judge shall also receive the same compensation as is by law provided for the judge of said southern district. District and circuit courts for the trial of causes shall be held in the city of Brooklyn on the first Wednesday of every month. The courts so to be held shall have the same jurisdiction as is now or may hereafter be vested in other district and circuit courts of the United States. Such officers shall be appointed for said district and court, and in the same manner and with the same fees and emoluments as prescribed by law for other districts and courts of the United States.

Judge. Jurisdiction and pay.

Terms of district and circuit courts.

Other officers of court.

Concurrent jurisdiction of this court.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the district court for the said eastern district shall have concurrent jurisdiction with the district court for the southern district of New York over the waters within the counties of New York, Kings, Queens, and Suffolk, in the State of New York, and over all seizures and matters made or done in such waters; and all writs or other process or orders issued out of either of said courts, or by any judge thereof, shall run and be executed in any part of said waters.

Process.

Judge to hold court in southern district, when, &c.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That, in case of the inability on account of sickness of the judge of the district court of the United States for the southern district of New York, to hold any court therein, it shall be the duty of the judge of the said eastern district of New York to hold such court and do and perform all the acts and duties of the judge of said southern district without any additional compensation; and whenever, from pressure of public business or other cause, it shall be deemed desirable by the judge of said southern district of New York, that the judge of said eastern district perform the duties of a judge in said southern district, an order may be entered to that effect in the records of said district court, and thereupon the judge of said eastern district shall be empowered to do and perform, without additional compensation, within said southern district of New York, and in the district court thereof, all the acts and duties of the district judge thereof.

APPROVED, February 25, 1865.

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1863, ch. 52.
Vol. xii. p. 658.

CHAP. LV. — *An Act supplemental to an Act entitled "An Act to annex a Part of the State of New Jersey to the Collection District of New York, and to appoint an Assistant Collector to reside at Jersey City," approved February twenty-one, eighteen hundred and sixty-three.*

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the assistant collector