Table Annexed to Article: Governments I and II Govern the Northwest Territories

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GOVERNMENTS I AND II GOVERN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
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TABLE 641_1_A
AN ORDINANCE FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
TERRITORY OF THE UNITED STATES NORTHWEST OF THE RIVER OHIO
JULY 13, 1787
{SOURCE: JOURNALS OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS 32:313-320;
MR TEXT FORMAT}

Section 1. Be it ordained by the United States in Congress assembled, That the said territory, for the purposes of temporary government, be one district, subject, however, to be divided into two districts, as future circumstances may, in the opinion of Congress, make it expedient.

Sec 2. Be it ordained by the authority aforesaid, That the estates, both of resident and nonresident proprietors in the said territory, dying intestate, shall descent to, and be distributed among their children, and the descendants of a deceased child, in equal parts; the descendants of a deceased child or grandchild to take the share of their deceased parent in equal parts among them: And where there shall be no children or descendants, then in equal parts to the next of kin in equal degree; and among collaterals, the children of a deceased brother or sister of the intestate shall have, in equal parts among them, their deceased parents' share; and there shall in no case be a distinction between kindred of the whole and half blood; saving, in all cases, to the widow of the intestate her third part of the real estate for life, and one third part of the personal estate; and this law relative to descents and dower, shall remain in full force until altered by the legislature of the district. And until the governor and judges shall adopt laws as hereinafter mentioned, estates in the said territory may be devised or bequeathed by wills in writing, signed and sealed by him or her in whom the estate may be (being of full age), and attested by three witnesses; and real estates may be conveyed by lease and release, or bargain and sale, signed, sealed and delivered by the person being of full age, in whom the estate may be, and attested by two witnesses, provided such wills be duly proved, and such conveyances be acknowledged, or the execution thereof duly proved, and be recorded within one year after proper magistrates, courts, and registers shall be
appointed for that purpose; and personal property may be transferred by
delivery; saving, however to the French and Canadian inhabitants, and
other settlers of the Kaskaskies, St. Vincents and the neighboring villages
who have heretofore professed themselves citizens of Virginia, their laws
and customs now in force among them, relative to the descent and
conveyance, of property.

Sec. 3. Be it ordained by the authority aforesaid, That there shall be
appointed from time to time by Congress, a governor, whose commission
shall continue in force for the term of three years, unless sooner revoked by
Congress; he shall reside in the district, and have a freehold estate therein
in 1,000 acres of land, while in the exercise of his office.

Sec. 4. There shall be appointed from time to time by Congress, a secretary,
whose commission shall continue in force for four years unless sooner
revoked; he shall reside in the district, and have a freehold estate therein in
500 acres of land, while in the exercise of his office. It shall be his duty to
keep and preserve the acts and laws passed by the legislature, and the
public records of the district, and the proceedings of the governor in his
executive department, and transmit authentic copies of such acts and
proceedings, every six months, to the Secretary of Congress: There shall
also be appointed a court to consist of three judges, any two of whom to
form a court, who shall have a common law jurisdiction, and reside in the
district, and have each therein a freehold estate in 500 acres of land while
in the exercise of their offices; and their commissions shall continue in
force during good behavior.

Sec. 5. The governor and judges, or a majority of them, shall adopt and
publish in the district such laws of the original States, criminal and civil, as
may be necessary and best suited to the circumstances of the district, and
report them to Congress from time to time: which laws shall be in force in
the district until the organization of the General Assembly therein, unless
disapproved of by Congress; but afterwards the Legislature shall have
authority to alter them as they shall think fit.

Sec. 6. The governor, for the time being, shall be commander in chief of the
militia, appoint and commission all officers in the same below the rank of
general officers; all general officers shall be appointed and commissioned
by Congress.

Sec. 7. Previous to the organization of the general assembly, the governor
shall appoint such magistrates and other civil officers in each county or
township, as he shall find necessary for the preservation of the peace and
good order in the same: After the general assembly shall be organized, the powers and duties of the magistrates and other civil officers shall be regulated and defined by the said assembly; but all magistrates and other civil officers not herein otherwise directed, shall during the continuance of this temporary government, be appointed by the governor.

Sec. 8. For the prevention of crimes and injuries, the laws to be adopted or made shall have force in all parts of the district, and for the execution of process, criminal and civil, the governor shall make proper divisions thereof; and he shall proceed from time to time as circumstances may require, to lay out the parts of the district in which the Indian titles shall have been extinguished, into counties and townships, subject, however, to such alterations as may thereafter be made by the legislature.

Sec. 9. So soon as there shall be five thousand free male inhabitants of full age in the district, upon giving proof thereof to the governor, they shall receive authority, with time and place, to elect a representative from their counties or townships to represent them in the general assembly: Provided, That, for every five hundred free male inhabitants, there shall be one representative, and so on progressively with the number of free male inhabitants shall the right of representation increase, until the number of representatives shall amount to twenty five; after which, the number and proportion of representatives shall be regulated by the legislature: Provided, That no person be eligible or qualified to act as a representative unless he shall have been a citizen of one of the United States three years, and be a resident in the district, or unless he shall have resided in the district three years; and, in either case, shall likewise hold in his own right, in fee simple, two hundred acres of land within the same; Provided, also, That a freehold in fifty acres of land in the district, having been a citizen of one of the states, and being resident in the district, or the like freehold and two years residence in the district, shall be necessary to qualify a man as an elector of a representative.

Sec. 10. The representatives thus elected, shall serve for the term of two years; and, in case of the death of a representative, or removal from office, the governor shall issue a writ to the county or township for which he was a member, to elect another in his stead, to serve for the residue of the term.

Sec. 11. The general assembly or legislature shall consist of the governor, legislative council, and a house of representatives. The Legislative Council shall consist of five members, to continue in office five years, unless sooner removed by Congress; any three of whom to be a quorum: and the members
of the Council shall be nominated and appointed in the following manner, to wit: As soon as representatives shall be elected, the Governor shall appoint a time and place for them to meet together; and, when met, they shall nominate ten persons, residents in the district, and each possessed of a freehold in five hundred acres of land, and return their names to Congress; five of whom Congress shall appoint and commission to serve as aforesaid; and, whenever a vacancy shall happen in the council, by death or removal from office, the house of representatives shall nominate two persons, qualified as aforesaid, for each vacancy, and return their names to Congress; one of whom congress shall appoint and commission for the residue of the term. And every five years, four months at least before the expiration of the time of service of the members of council, the said house shall nominate ten persons, qualified as aforesaid, and return their names to Congress; five of whom Congress shall appoint and commission to serve as members of the council five years, unless sooner removed. And the governor, legislative council, and house of representatives, shall have authority to make laws in all cases, for the good government of the district, not repugnant to the principles and articles in this ordinance established and declared. And all bills, having passed by a majority in the house, and by a majority in the council, shall be referred to the governor for his assent; but no bill, or legislative act whatever, shall be of any force without his assent. The governor shall have power to convene, prorogue, and dissolve the general assembly, when, in his opinion, it shall be expedient.

Sec. 12. The governor, judges, legislative council, secretary, and such other officers as Congress shall appoint in the district, shall take an oath or affirmation of fidelity and of office; the governor before the president of congress, and all other officers before the Governor. As soon as a legislature shall be formed in the district, the council and house assembled in one room, shall have authority, by joint ballot, to elect a delegate to Congress, who shall have a seat in Congress, with a right of debating but not voting during this temporary government.

Sec. 13. And, for extending the fundamental principles of civil and religious liberty, which form the basis whereon these republics, their laws and constitutions are erected; to fix and establish those principles as the basis of all laws, constitutions, and governments, which forever hereafter shall be formed in the said territory: to provide also for the establishment of States, and permanent government therein, and for their admission to a share in the federal councils on an equal footing with the original States, at as early periods as may be consistent with the general interest:
expenses of government, to be apportioned on them by Congress according to the same common rule and measure by which apportionments thereof shall be made on the other States; and the taxes for paying their proportion shall be laid and levied by the authority and direction of the legislatures of the district or districts, or new States, as in the original States, within the time agreed upon by the United States in Congress assembled. The legislatures of those districts or new States, shall never interfere with the primary disposal of the soil by the United States in Congress assembled, nor with any regulations Congress may find necessary for securing the title in such soil to the bona fide purchasers. No tax shall be imposed on lands the property of the United States; and, in no case, shall nonresident proprietors be taxed higher than residents. The navigable waters leading into the Mississippi and St. Lawrence, and the carrying places between the same, shall be common highways and forever free, as well to the inhabitants of the said territory as to the citizens of the United States, and those of any other States that may be admitted into the confederacy, without any tax, impost, or duty therefor.

Art. 5. There shall be formed in the said territory, not less than three nor more than five States; and the boundaries of the States, as soon as Virginia shall alter her act of cession, and consent to the same, shall become fixed and established as follows, to wit: The western State in the said territory, shall be bounded by the Mississippi, the Ohio, and Wabash Rivers; a direct line drawn from the Wabash and Post Vincents, due North, to the territorial line between the United States and Canada; and, by the said territorial line, to the Lake of the Woods and Mississippi. The middle State shall be bounded by the said direct line, the Wabash from Post Vincents to the Ohio, by the Ohio, by a direct line, drawn due north from the mouth of the Great Miami, to the said territorial line, and by the said territorial line. The eastern State shall be bounded by the last mentioned direct line, the Ohio, Pennsylvania, and the said territorial line: Provided, however, and it is further understood and declared, that the boundaries of these three States shall be subject so far to be altered, that, if Congress shall hereafter find it expedient, they shall have authority to form one or two States in that part of the said territory which lies north of an east and west line drawn through the southerly bend or extreme of Lake Michigan. And, whenever any of the said States shall have sixty thousand free inhabitants therein, such State shall be admitted, by its delegates, into the Congress of the United States, on an equal footing with the original States in all respects whatever, and shall be at liberty to form a permanent constitution and State government: Provided, the constitution and government so to be formed, shall be
Sec. 14. It is hereby ordained and declared by the authority aforesaid, That the following articles shall be considered as articles of compact between the original States and the people and States in the said territory and forever remain unalterable, unless by common consent, to wit:

Art. 1. No person, demeaning himself in a peaceable and orderly manner, shall ever be molested on account of his mode of worship or religious sentiments, in the said territory.

Art. 2. The inhabitants of the said territory shall always be entitled to the benefits of the writ of habeas corpus, and of the trial by jury; of a proportionate representation of the people in the legislature; and of judicial proceedings according to the course of the common law. All persons shall be bailable, unless for capital offenses, where the proof shall be evident or the presumption great. All fines shall be moderate; and no cruel or unusual punishments shall be inflicted. No man shall be deprived of his liberty or property, but by the judgment of his peers or the law of the land; and, should the public exigencies make it necessary, for the common preservation, to take any person's property, or to demand his particular services, full compensation shall be made for the same. And, in the just preservation of rights and property, it is understood and declared, that no law ought ever to be made, or have force in the said territory, that shall, in any manner whatever, interfere with or affect private contracts or engagements, bona fide, and without fraud, previously formed.

Art. 3. Religion, morality, and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged. The utmost good faith shall always be observed towards the Indians; their lands and property shall never be taken from them without their consent; and, in their property, rights, and liberty, they shall never be invaded or disturbed, unless in just and lawful wars authorized by Congress; but laws founded in justice and humanity, shall from time to time be made for preventing wrongs being done to them, and for preserving peace and friendship with them.

Art. 4. The said territory, and the States which may be formed therein, shall forever remain a part of this Confederacy of the United States of America, subject to the Articles of Confederation, and to such alterations therein as shall be constitutionally made; and to all the acts and ordinances of the United States in Congress assembled, conformable thereto. The inhabitants and settlers in the said territory shall be subject to pay a part of the federal debts contracted or to be contracted, and a proportional part of the
republican, and in conformity to the principles contained in these articles; and, so far as it can be consistent with the general interest of the confederacy, such admission shall be allowed at an earlier period, and when there may be a less number of free inhabitants in the State than sixty thousand.

Art. 6. There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in the said territory, otherwise than in the punishment of crimes whereof the party shall have been duly convicted: Provided, always, That any person escaping into the same, from whom labor or service is lawfully claimed in any one of the original States, such fugitive may be lawfully reclaimed and conveyed to the person claiming his or her labor or service as aforesaid.

Be it ordained by the authority aforesaid, That the resolutions of the 23rd of April, 1784, relative to the subject of this ordinance, be, and the same are hereby repealed and declared null and void.

Done by the United States, in Congress assembled, the 13th day of July, in the year of our Lord 1787, and of their sovereignty and independence the twelfth.

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**Table 641_1_B**

*AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE TERRITORY NORTH-WEST OF THE RIVER OHIO.*

**ACT OF AUGUST 7, 1789**

*{SOURCE: PUBLIC STATUTES OF THE UNITED STATES, FIRST CONGRESS, SESSION I, CHAPTER 8 1 STAT. 50-53; MR TEXT FORMAT}*

*Whereas* in order that the ordinance of the United States in Congress assembled, for the government of the territory north-west of the river Ohio may continue to have full effect, is is requisite that certain provisions should be made, so as to adapt the same to the present Constitution of the United States.

**SECTION 1.** *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That in all cases in which the said ordinance, any information is to be given, or communication made by the governor of the said territory to the United States in Congress assembled, or to any of their officers, it shall be the duty of the said governor to give such information and to make such communication to the President of the United States, and the President shall nominate, and by
and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint all officers which by the said ordinance were to have been appointed by the United States in Congress assembled, and all officers so appointed by the United States in Congress assembled, and all officers so appointed shall be commissioned by him; and in all cases where the United States in Congress assembled, might, by the said ordinance, revoke any commission or remove from any office, the President is hereby declared to have the same powers of revocation and removal.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That in case of the death, removal, resignation, or necessary absence of the governor of the said territory, the secretary thereof shall be, and he is hereby authorized and required to execute all the powers, and perform all the duties of the governor, during the vacancy occasioned by the removal, resignation or necessary absence of the said governor.

Approved, August 7, 1789.
TABLE 641_1_C
NORTHWEST ORDINANCE IN PDF TEXT FORMAT (1787)
AND
ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE TERRITORY
NORTH-WEST OF THE RIVER OHIO IN PDF TEXT FORMAT (1789)
{12 PP TOTAL}
The Company to be at liberty for the term of three years from the closing of this Contract, to extend their purchase, from time to time, upon the same terms, within the Muskingum and Scioto, and lines extending due North from their sources as far as the Indian boundary established by the Treaty of 1785, provided that there shall never be left any interstice, and that the Northern boundary shall always be by a due East and West line until it shall reach the said Indian boundary. a line to be extended due North from the conflux of the branches of Sioto at a place called Town lick and the continuation of the boundary of the seventh Range of Townships as far as the Indian boundary established by the Treaty of 1785, provided that there shall never be left any interstice, and that the Northern boundary shall always be by a due East and West line until the several purchases shall reach the said Indian boundary.¹

WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 1787.

Congress assembled present the seven states above mentioned.

The Com, consisting of Mr. [Edward] Carrington Mr. [Nathan] Dane Mr. [Richard] H[enry] Lee Mr. [John] Kean and Mr. [Melancton] Smith to whom was referred the report of a com. the temporary government of the western territory reported an Ordinance for the government of the territory of the United States North West of the river Ohio, which was read a first time.

¹ July 10, 1787. According to the Committee Book, Papers of the Continental Congress, No. 190, p. 151, the following committee was appointed:

Mr. Abraham Clark, Mr. William Pierce, Mr. Nathan Dane, Mr. William Few and Mr. John Kean on a motion of Mr. Pierce respecting the requisition for 1787 and the estimate of the Board of Treasury for that year. This was a renewal of the committee of May 3, 1787. Report rendered July 14, 1787. See April 2, 1787.
An Ordinance for the Government of the territory of the United States North West of the river Ohio.¹

Be it ordained by the United States in Congress Assembled, that the said Territory, for the purposes of Temporary Government, be one district; subject, however, to be divided into two districts, as future circumstances may, in the opinion of Congress, make it expedient.

Be it ordained by the Authority aforesaid that the estates both of resident and non resident proprietors in said Territory dying intestate, shall descend to, and be distributed among their children and the descendants of a deceased child in equal parts; the descendants of a deceased child or grand child to take the share of their deceased parent in equal parts among them. And where there shall be no children or descendants then in equal parts to the next a kin in equal degree, computing by the rules of the civil law, and among Collaterals the children of a deceased brother or sister of the intestate, shall have in equal parts among them their deceased parent’s share. Saving in all Cases to the widow of the intestate, her third part of the real estate for life, and where there shall be no children of the intestate, one third part of the personal estate; and this law relative to descents and dower shall remain in full force until altered by the Legislature of the district. And until the Governor and Judges shall adopt laws as herein after mentioned, estates in said Territory may be devised or bequeathed by wills in writing signed and sealed by him or her in whom the estate may be, (being of full age) and attested by three witnesses. And real estates may be conveyed by lease, or bargain and sale, signed, sealed, and delivered by the person being of full age, in whom the estate may be, and attested by two witnesses, provided such wills be duly proved, and such conveyances be acknowledged, or the execution thereof duly proved, and be recorded within one year after proper magistrates, Courts, and registries shall be appointed for that purpose. And personal property may be transferred by delivery. Sav-

¹ Papers of the Continental Congress, No. 56, pp. 497–502, in the writing of Mr. Nathan Dane, indorsed as read first time July 11, 1787. In printed form this report is in Papers of the Continental Congress Broadsides, with Mss. changes by Charles Thomson and Mr. William Grayson and with a Mss. copy of the sixth Article in the writing of Mr. Dane attached to it. From the indorsement it appears that the corrected printed form represents the second reading on July 12.

The words underlined by the editor in the text of this report were struck out during the debate. See April 26, May 9, 10, and July 9, 12 and 13, 1787.
ing, however, to the Inhabitants of Kaskaskias and post Vincents
their laws and customs now in force among them relative to the de-
scent and conveyance of property.

Be it ordained by the Authority aforesaid, that there shall be ap-
pointed from time to time by Congress, a Governor, whose commission
shall continue in force for the term of three years, unless sooner re-
voked by Congress; he shall reside in the district and have a freehold
estate therein, in one thousand acres of land, while in the exercise of
his office.

There shall be appointed from time to time by Congress, a Secretary
whose commission shall continue in force for four years, unless sooner
revoked, he shall reside in the district, and have a freehold estate
therein, in five hundred acres of land, while in the exercise of his office.
It shall be his duty to keep and preserve the Acts and laws passed by
the legislature, and the public records of the district, and the proceed-
ings of the Governor in his executive department; and transmit Au-
thentic copies of such Acts and proceedings, every six months, to the
Secretary of Congress. There shall also be appointed a Court to con-
sist of three Judges, any two of whom to form a Court, who shall have
a Common law Jurisdiction, and reside in the district and have each
therein a freehold estate in five hundred acres of land, while in the
exercise of their offices; and their commissions shall continue in force
during good behaviour.

The Governor and Judges, or a majority of them, shall adopt and
publish in the district, such laws of the original States, criminal and
civil, as may be necessary, and best suited to the circumstances of the
district, and report them to Congress, from time to time, which laws
shall be in force in the district until the organization of the General
Assembly therein, unless disapproved of by Congress; but afterwards
the legislature shall have authority to alter them as they shall think
fit.

The Governor for the time being, shall be commander in chief of
of the militia, appoint and commission all officers in the same, below
the rank of General Officers; all officers above that rank shall be ap-
pointed and commissioned by Congress.

Previous to the organization of the General Assembly the Governor
shall appoint such magistrates and other civil officers in each County
or township, as he shall find necessary for the preservation of the
peace and good order in the same. After the General Assembly shall
be organised, the powers and duties of magistrates and other civil Officers shall be regulated and defined by the said Assembly; but all magistrates and other civil Officers, not herein otherwise directed, shall, during the continuance of this temporary Government, be appointed by the Governor.

For the prevention of crimes and Injuries the laws to be adopted or made shall have force in all parts of the district and for the execution of process criminal and civil the Governor shall make proper divisions thereof. And he shall proceed, from time to time, as circumstances may require to lay out the parts of the district in which the Indian titles shall have been extinguished into Counties and townships subject however to such alterations, as may thereafter be made by the Legislature.

So soon as there shall be 5000 free male Inhabitants, of full age, in the district upon giving proof thereof to the Governor, they shall receive authority, with time and place to elect representatives from their Counties or townships, to represent them in the General Assembly; provided that for every 500 free male Inhabitants there shall be one representative, and so on progressively with the number of free male Inhabitants, shall the right of representation increase, until the number of representatives shall amount to 25, after which the number and proportion of representatives shall be regulated by the legislature, provided that no person be eligible or qualified to Act as a representative unless he shall have been a Citizen of one of the United States three years and be resident in the district, or unless he shall have resided in the district three years, and in either Case shall likewise hold in his own right, in fee simple, 200 acres of land within the same, provided also that a freehold of fifty acres of land in the district, having been a Citizen of one of the States and being resident in the district; or the like freehold and two years residence in the district shall be necessary to qualify a man as an elector of a representative.

The representatives thus elected shall serve for the term of two years, and in Case of the death of a representative, or removal from office, the Governor shall issue a writ to the County or township for which he was a member to elect another in his stead, to serve for the residue of the term.

The General Assembly, or legislature, shall consist of the Governor, legislative Council, and a House of representatives. The legislative Council shall consist of 5 members to continue in office 5 years, unless sooner removed by Congress, any three of whom to be a quorum and
the members of the Council shall be nominated and appointed in the following manner to wit, as soon as representatives shall be elected the Governor shall appoint a time and place for them to meet together and when met they shall nominate ten persons residents in the district and each possessed of a freehold in 500 acres of land and return the names to Congress five of whom Congress shall appoint and commission to serve as aforesaid; and whenever a vacancy shall happen in the Council by death, or removal from office, the House of representatives shall nominate two persons qualified as aforesaid for each vacancy; and return their names to Congress, one of whom Congress shall appoint and commission for the residue of the term; and every five years, four months, at least, before the expiration of the time of service of the members of Council the said House shall nominate ten persons qualified as aforesaid, and return their names to Congress, five of whom Congress shall appoint and commission to serve as members of the Council five years unless sooner removed. And the Governor, legislative Council, and House of Representatives shall have authority to make laws in all cases for the good government of the district not repugnant to the principles and articles in this ordinance established and declared. And all bills having passed by a majority in the House and by a majority in the Council, shall be referred to the Governor for his assent; but no bill or legislative Act whatever shall be of any force without his assent. The Governor shall have power to convene, prorogue and dissolve the General Assembly when in his opinion it shall be expedient.

The Governor Judges, legislative Council, Secretary and Such other officers as Congress shall appoint in the district, shall take an oath or affirmation of fidelity, and of office, the Governor before the president of Congress, and all other officers before the Governor. As soon as a legislature shall be formed in the district the Council and House assembled in one room shall have authority by Joint ballot to elect a Delegate to Congress who shall have a seat in Congress with a right of debating but not of voting during this temporary Government.

And for extending to all parts of the Confederacy the fundamental principles of civil and religious liberty which form the basis whereon these republics, their laws and Constitutions are erected; to fix and establish those principles as the basis of all laws Constitutions and Governments, which forever hereafter shall be formed in the said Territory; to provide also for the establishment of States and permanent Government therein, and for their admission to a share in the
federal Councils on an equal footing with the original States at as early periods as may be consistent with the General Interest,

It is hereby ordained and declared by the authority aforesaid that the following articles shall be considered as articles of compact between the original States and the people and States in the said Territory, and forever remain unalterable unless by Common Consent to wit,

Article the first. no person demeaning himself in a peaceable and orderly manner shall ever be molested on account of his mode of worship or religious sentiments in the said Territory.

Article the second. the Inhabitants of the said Territory shall always be entitled to the benefits of the writ of habeas corpus, and of the trial by Jury; of a proportional representation of the people in the legislature, and of Judicial proceedings according to the Course of the Common law; all persons shall be bailable unless for capital offences where the proof shall be evident, or the presumption great; all fines shall be moderate and no cruel or unusual punishments shall be inflicted. No man shall be deprived of his liberty or property but by the Judgment of his peers or the law of the land, and should the public exigencies make it necessary for the common preservation to take any persons property or to demand his particular services, full compensation shall be made therefor, and in the Just preservation of rights and property it is understood and declared, that no law ought ever to be made, or have force in the said Territory, that shall in any manner whatever interfere with, or effect private contracts or engagements, bona fide and without fraud previously formed.

Article the third. Institutions for the promotion of religion and morality, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged, and all persons while young shall be taught some useful Occupation. The utmost good faith shall always be observed towards the Indians; their lands and property shall never be taken from them without their consent; and in their property, rights, and liberty, they never shall be invaded or disturbed, unless in Just and lawful wars authorised by Congress; but laws founded in Justice and humanity shall, from time to time, be made, for preventing wrongs being done to them, and for preserving peace and friendship with them.

Article the fourth. The said Territory and the States which may be formed therein shall forever remain a part of this Confederacy of the United States of America subject to the articles of Confederation and to such alterations therein as shall be constitutionally made; and to all the acts and ordinances of the United States in Congress assembled
conformable thereto. The Inhabitants and settlers in said Territory shall be subject to pay a part of the federal debts contracted or to be contracted, and a proportional part of the expences of Government, to be apportioned on them by Congress according to the same common rule and measure by which apportionments thereof shall be made on the other States; and the taxes for paying their proportion shall be laid and levied by the authority and direction of the legislatures of the district or districts or new States, as in the original States, within the time agreed upon by the United States in Congress assembled. The legislatures of those districts, or new States, shall never interfere with the primary disposal of the soil by the United States in Congress assembled, nor with any regulations Congress may find necessary for securing the title in such soil to the bona fide purchasers, no tax shall be imposed on lands the property of the United States, and in no Case shall non resident proprietors be taxed higher than residents. No laws shall ever be made in said Territory for creating perpetuities therein, and the navigable waters leading into the Mississippi and St Lawrence, and the carrying places between the same shall be common high ways, and forever free, as well to the Inhabitants of the said Territory, as to the Citizens of the United States, and those of any other States, that may be admitted into the Confederacy without any tax, impost or duty therefor.

Article the fifth. There shall be formed in the said Territory not less than three nor more than five States and the boundaries of the States, as soon as Virginia shall alter her act of cession and authorise the same shall become fixed and established as follows to wit. the Western State in said territory shall be bounded by the Mississippi, the Ohio and Wabash rivers, a direct line drawn from the Wabash and post Vincents due North to the territorial line between the United States and Canada, and by said Territorial line to the lake of the Woods and Mississippi. The middle State shall be bounded by the said direct line the Wabash from post Vincents to the Ohio, by the Ohio, by a direct line drawn due North from the mouth of the Great Miami to said territorial line and by said territorial line. The Eastern State shall be bounded by the last mentioned direct line, the Ohio, Pennsylvania, and the said territorial line, provided however and it is further understood and declared that the boundaries of these three States shall be subject so far to be altered, that if Congress hereafter shall find it expedient they shall have authority to form one or two States in that part of the said territory which lies North
of an East and West line drawn through the Southerly bend or extremity of lake Michigan; and whenever any of the said States shall have sixty thousand free Inhabitants therein, such State shall be admitted by its Delegates into the Congress of the United States, on an equal footing with the original States in all respects whatever, and shall be at liberty to form a permanent Constitution and State Government, provided the Constitution and Government so to be formed shall be republican and in conformity to the principles contained in these articles and so far as it can be consistent with the General Interest of the Confederacy such admission shall be allowed at an earlier period and when there may be a less number of free Inhabitants in the State than sixty thousand.

Be it ordained by the authority aforesaid that the resolutions of the 23d of April, 1784, be, and the same are hereby repealed and declared null and void.

Ordered  That to morrow be assigned for 2d reading.

[Report of Board of Treasury on issue of indents 1]

The Board of Treasury to whom was referred a Letter of the 18th (NB 16th date of the letter) of April 1787, from His Excellency the Governor of the State of Virginia,

Beg leave to Report

That the purport of the said Letter is, that the Board of Treasury should be instructed to order the issue of Interest on the Requisition 2 of the 2d of August 1786.

On the above application the Board beg leave to observe, that it implies, either,

That the Commissioners of this Board have neglected to carry into execution that part of the Requisition abovementioned which relates to the issue of Indents in the State of Virginia, Or,

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1 *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 139, pp. 519–533, read July 11, 1787. The covering letter of the Board, also read, is in *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 140, I, p. 375. According to indorsement and the Committee Book, *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 190, p. 152, the report was referred to a committee consisting of Mr. Nathan Dane, Mr. Abraham Clark, Mr. Richard Henry Lee, Mr. John Kean and Mr. Melancton Smith. It is also indorsed as superseded by requisition for 1787. See May 2 and July 16, 1787.

Secretary for the department of war, his duty.

shall be an executive department to be denominated the Department of War, and there shall be a principal officer therein, to be called the Secretary for the Department of War, who shall perform and execute such duties as shall from time to time be enjoined on, or entrusted to him by the President of the United States, agreeably to the Constitution, relative to military commissions, or to the land or naval forces, ships, or warlike stores of the United States, or to such other matters respecting military or naval affairs, as the President of the United States shall assign to the said department, or relative to the granting of lands to persons entitled thereto, for military services rendered to the United States, or relative to Indian affairs; and furthermore, that the said principal officer shall conduct the business of the said department in such manner, as the President of the United States shall from time to time order or instruct.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That there shall be in the said department an inferior officer, to be appointed by the said principal officer, to be employed therein as he shall deem proper, and to be called the chief clerk in the department of war, and who, whenever the said principal officer shall be removed from office by the President of the United States, or in any other case of vacancy, shall, during such vacancy, have the charge and custody of all records, books and papers, appertaining to the said department.

Oath of office.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That the said principal officer, and every other person to be appointed or employed in the said department, shall, before he enters on the execution of his office or employment, take an oath or affirmation well and faithfully to execute the trust committed to him.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That the Secretary for the department of war, to be appointed in consequence of this act, shall forthwith, after his appointment, be entitled to have the custody and charge of all records, books and papers in the office of Secretary for the department of war; heretofore established by the United States in Congress assembled.

APPROVED, August 7, 1789.

Statute I.

Aug. 7, 1789. Chap. VIII.—An Act to provide for the Government of the Territory North-west of the river Ohio.

Whereas in order that the ordinance of the United States in Congress assembled, for the government of the territory north-west of the river

I do owe faith and true allegiance to the United States of America; and I do swear (or affirm) that I will, to the utmost of my power, support, maintain and defend the said United States in their freedom, sovereignty and independence, against all opposition whatsoever. And the oath of office shall be in the words following: "I, A. B. appointed to the office of do swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully, truly and impartially execute the office of to which I am so appointed, according to the best of my skill and judgment; and that I will not disclose or reveal any thing that shall come to my knowledge in the execution of the said office, or from the confidence I may thereby acquire, which in my own judgment or by the injunction of my superiors ought to be kept secret." That the form of the oath of fidelity heretofore prescribed by Congress, and all former resolutions of Congress relative to the department of war, be, and they are hereby repealed.

Done by the United States in Congress assembled, the twenty-seventh day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-five, and of our sovereignty and independence the ninth.

CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

(2) The Secretary at War, as the legitimate organ of the President, under a general authority from him, may exercise the power, and make the allowance to officers having a separate command. Parker v. The United States, 1 Peters, 286.

(3) By "an act to establish an executive department to be denominated the Department of the Navy, passed April 30, 1798, chap. 56, the navy department was established, and by the 5th section of that act so much of the act of August 7, 1789, as vested any of the powers given to the department over the navy, by the act of April 30, 1789, were repealed."
Ohio may continue to have full effect, it is requisite that certain provisions should be made, so as to adapt the same to the present Constitution of the United States. (2)

(a) An Ordinance for the Government of the Territory of the United States north-west of the river Ohio.

Be it ordained by the United States in Congress assembled, That the said territory, for the purposes of temporary government, be one district; subject, however, to be divided into two districts, as future circumstances may, in the opinion of Congress, make it expedient.

Be it ordained by the authority aforesaid, That the estates both of resident and non-resident proprietors in the said territory, dying intestate, shall descend to, and be distributed among their children, and the descendants of a deceased child in equal parts; the descendants of a deceased child or grandchild, to take the share of their deceased parent in equal parts among them; and when there shall be no children or descendants, then in equal parts to the next of kin in equal degrees; and among collaterals, the children of a deceased brother or sister of the intestate, shall have in equal parts among them their deceased parents' share; and there shall in no case be a distinction between kindred of the whole and half blood; saving in all cases to the widow of the intestate, her third part of the real estate for life, and one third part of the personal estate; and this law relative to descents and dower, shall remain in full force until altered by the legislature of the district.—And until the governor and judges shall adopt laws as hereinafter mentioned, estates in the said territory may be devised or bequeathed by wills in writing, signed and sealed by him or her, in whom the estate may be (being of full age) and attested by three witnesses; and real estates may be conveyed by lease and release, or bargain and sale, signed, sealed and delivered, to the heir apparent, being of full age, in whom the estate may be, and attested by two witnesses, provided such wills be duly proved, and such conveyances be acknowledged, or the execution thereof duly proved, and be recorded within one year after proper magistrates, courts and registers shall be appointed for that purpose; and personal property may be transferred by delivery; saving, however, to the French and Canadian inhabitants, and other settlers of the Kaskaskia, St. Vincent's, and the neighboring villages, who have heretofore professed themselves citizens of Virginia, their laws and customs now in force among them, relative to the descent and conveyance of property.

Be it ordained by the authority aforesaid, That there shall be appointed from time to time, by Congress, a governor, whose commission shall continue in force for the term of three years, unless sooner revoked by Congress: he shall reside in the district, and have a freehold estate therein, in one thousand acres of land, while in the exercise of his office.

There shall be appointed from time to time by Congress, a secretary, whose commission shall continue in force for four years, unless sooner revoked; he shall reside in the district, and have a freehold estate therein, in five hundred acres of land, while in the exercise of his office; it shall be his duty to keep and preserve the acts and laws passed by the legislature, and the public records of the district, and the proceedings of the governor of the district, and in his executive department; and transmit authentic copies of such acts and proceedings, every six months, to the secretary of Congress; There shall also be appointed a court to consist of three judges, any two of whom to form a court, who shall have a common law jurisdiction, and reside in the district, and have each therein a freehold estate in five hundred acres of land, while in the exercise of their offices; and their commissions shall continue in force during good behavior.

The governor and judges, or a majority of them, shall adopt and publish in the district, such laws of the original States, criminal and civil, as may be necessary, and best suited to the circumstances of the district, and report them to Congress, from time to time; which laws shall be in force in the district until the organization of the general assembly therein, unless disapproved of by Congress; but after the legislature shall have authority to alter them as they shall think fit.

The governor for the time being, shall be commander-in-chief of the militia, appoint and commission all officers in the same, below the rank of general officers; all general officers shall be appointed and commissioned by Congress.

Previous to the organization of the general assembly, the governor shall appoint such magistrates and other civil officers, in each county or township, as he shall find necessary for the preservation of the peace and good order in the same; After the general assembly shall be organized, the powers and duties of magistrates and other civil officers shall be regulated and defined by the said assembly; but all magistrates and other civil officers, not herein otherwise directed, shall during the continuance of this temporary government, be appointed by the governor.

For the prevention of crimes and injuries, the laws to be adopted or made shall have force in all parts of the district, and for the execution of process, criminal and civil, the governor shall make proper divisions thereof—and he shall proceed from time to time, as circumstances may require, to lay out the parts of the district in which the Indian title shall have been extinguished, into counties and townships, subject, however, to such alterations as may thereafter be made by the legislature.

So soon as there shall be five thousand free male inhabitants, of full age, in the district, upon giving proof thereof to the governor, they shall receive authority, with time and place, to elect representatives from their counties or townships, to represent them in the general assembly; provided that for every five hundred free male inhabitants, there shall be one representative, and so on progressively with the number of free male inhabitants shall the right of representation increase, until the number of representatives shall amount to twenty-five; after which the number and proportion of representatives shall be regulated by the legislature; provided that no person be eligible or qualified to act as a representative, unless he shall have been a citizen of one of the United States three years, and be a resident in the district, or unless he shall have resided in the district three years; and in either case, shall likewise hold his own right, in fee simple, two hundred acres of land within the same; provided also, that a freehold in fifty acres of land in the district, having been a citizen of one of the States, and being resident in the district, or the like freehold and two years residence in the district shall be necessary to qualify a man as an elector of a representative.

The representatives thus elected, shall serve for the term of two years; and in case of the death of a representative, or removal from office, the governor shall issue a writ to the county or township, for the election of a representative, which he might be a member, to elect another in his stead, to serve for the residue of the term.

The general assembly, or legislature, shall consist of the governor, legislative council, and a house of
FIRST CONGRESS. Sess. I. Ch. 8. 1789.

SEC. 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in all cases in which by the said ordinance, any information is to be given, or communication made by the governor of the said territory to the United States in Congress assembled, or to any of their officers, it shall

representatives. The legislative council shall consist of five members, to continue in office five years, unless sooner removed by Congress; any three of whom to be a quorum; and the members of the council shall be nominated and appointed in the following manner, to wit: As soon as representatives shall be elected, the governor shall appoint a time and place for them to meet together, and, when met, they shall nominate ten persons, residents in the district, and each possessed of a freehold in five hundred acres of land, and return their names to Congress; five of whom Congress shall appoint and commission to serve as aforesaid; and whenever a vacancy shall happen in the council, by death or removal from office, the house of representatives shall nominate two persons, qualified as aforesaid, for each vacancy, and return their names to Congress; one of whom Congress shall appoint and commission for the residue of the term. And every five years, four months at least before the expiration of the term of service of the members of council, the said house shall nominate ten persons, qualified as aforesaid, and return their names to Congress; five of whom Congress shall appoint and commission to serve as aforesaid. And the governor, legislative council, and house of representatives, shall have authority to make laws, in all cases, for the good government of the district, not repugnant to the principles and articles in this ordinance established and declared. And all bills having passed by a majority in the house, and by a majority in the council, shall be referred to the governor for his assent; but no bill or legislative act whatever, shall be of any force without his assent. The governor shall have power to convene, prorogue and dissolve the general assembly, when in his opinion it shall be expedient.

And for extending the fundamental principles of civil and religious liberty, which form the basis wherein these republics, their laws and constitutions are erected; to fix and establish those principles as the basis of all laws, constitutions, and governments, which forever hereafter shall be formed in the said territory; to provide also for the establishment of States, and permanent government therein, and for their admission to a share in the federal council on an equal footing with the original States, at as early periods as may be consistent with the general interest;

That the following articles shall be considered as articles of compact between the original States, and the people and States in the said territory, and forever remain unalterable, unless by common consent, to wit:

Art. I. No person, demeaning himself in a peaceable and orderly manner, shall ever be molested on account of his mode of worship or religious sentiments, in the said territory.

Art. II. The inhabitants of the said territory, shall always be entitled to the benefits of the writ of habeas corpus, and of the trial by jury; of a proportionate representation of the people in the legislature, and of judicial proceedings according to the course of the common law. All persons shall be bailable, unless for capital offences, where the proof shall be evident, or the presumption great. All fines shall be moderate; and no cruel or unusual punishments shall be inflicted. No person shall be deprived of his liberty or property, but by the judgment of his peers, or the law of the land, and should the public exigencies make it necessary, for the common preservation, to take any person's property, or to demand his particular services, full compensation shall be made for the same. And in the just preservation of rights and property, it is understood and declared, that no law ought ever to be made, or have force in the said territory, that shall in any manner whatever interfere with, or affect private contracts or engagements, bona fide, and without fraud previously formed.

Art. III. Religion, morality, and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged. The utmost good faith shall always be observed towards the Indians; their land and property shall never be taken from them without their consent; and in their property, rights and liberty, they shall never be invaded or disturbed, unless in just and lawful wars authorized by Congress; but laws founded in justice and humanity shall from time to time be made, for preventing wrongs being done to them, and for preserving peace and friendship with them.

Art. IV. The said territory, and the States which may be formed therein, shall forever remain a part of this confederacy of the United States of America, subject to the articles of confederation, and to such alterations therein, as shall be constitutionally made; and to all the acts and ordinances of the United States in Congress assembled, conformable thereto. The inhabitants and settlers in the said territory, shall be subject to pay a part of the federal debts, contracted or to be contracted, and a proportion part of the expenses of government to be apportioned on them by Congress, according to the same common rule and measure, by which apportionments thereof shall be made on the other States; and the taxes for paying their proportion, shall be laid and levied by the authority and direction of the legislatures of the district or districts or new States, as in the original States, within the time agreed upon by the United States in Congress assembled; the legislatures of those States or new States, shall never interfere with the primary disposal of the soil by the United States in Congress assembled, nor with any regulations Congress may find necessary for securing the title in such soil to the bona fide purchasers. No tax shall be imposed on land the property of the United States; and in no case shall non-resident proprietors be taxed higher than residents. The navigable waters leading into the Mississippi shall be free; and the carrying places between the same, shall be equal, as to the citizens of the United States, and those of any other State that may be admitted into the confederacy, without any tax, impost, or duty thereon.
be the duty of the said governor to give such information and to make
such communication to the President of the United States, and the Pres-
sident shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the
Senate, shall appoint all officers which by the said ordinance were to
have been appointed by the United States in Congress assembled, and
all officers so appointed shall be commissioned by him; and in all cases
where the United States in Congress assembled, might, by the said ordi-
nance, revoke any commission or remove from any office, the President
is hereby declared to have the same powers of revocation and removal.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That in case of the death, removal,
resignation, or necessary absence of the governor of the said territory,
the secretary thereof shall be, and he is hereby authorized and required
to execute all the powers, and perform all the duties of the governor,
during the vacancy occasioned by the removal, resignation or necessary
absence of the said governor.(a)

Approved, August 7, 1789.

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CHAP. IX.—An Act for the establishment and support of Lighthouses, Beacons,
Buys, and Public Piers.(b)

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Represen-
tatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all
expenses which shall accrue from and after the fifteenth day of August,
Act of July 22, 1790, ch. 32.

Art. VI. There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in the said territory, otherwise than in punishment of crimes, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted: Provided always, that any person escaping into the same, from whom labour or service is lawfully claimed in any one of the original States, such fugitive may be lawfully reclaimed, and conveyed to the person claiming his or her labour or service as aforesaid.

Done by the United States in Congress assembled, the thirteenth day of July, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven, and of their sovereignty and independence the twelfth.

CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

(a) The States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan, were, after the enactment of this law, formed out of part of "The Territory of the United States, northwest of the river Ohio," and became members of the federal Union.

Ohio was established as a State April 30, 1802. Indiana was admitted into the Union December 11, 1816. Illinois was admitted into the Union December 3, 1818. Michigan was admitted into the Union January 26, 1837.

See acts of July 22, 1790; of March 3, 1791; act of March 2, 1793; act of March 2, 1795; act of May 30, 1796. Few acts have been specially passed since 1786 for the support &c. of lighthouses, &c. Provision for the same has been made in the general appropriation laws. By the 7th section of the act of May 15, 1830, "No lighthouse, beacon or landmark shall be built or erected on any site previous to the cession of jurisdiction over the same being made to the United States."

Suits for piloteage on the high seas, and on waters navigable from the sea, as far as the tide ebbs and flows, are within the admiralty and maritime jurisdiction of the United States. The Thomas Jefferson, 10 Wheat. 428. Peyroux v. Howard, 7 Peters, 324. Hobart v. Drogan, 10 Peters, 108.