

Delaware Act of Ratification, 1 February 1779

An ACT to authorise and empower the Delegates of the Delaware State to subscribe and ratify the articles of Confederation and perpetual union between the several states.

WHEREAS articles of confederation and perpetual union between the states of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts's Bay, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, signed in the General Congress of the said states, by the honorable Henry Laurens, esquire, their then President, have been laid before the Legislature of this state to be ratified by the same, if approved. *And whereas* notwithstanding the terms of the articles of confederation and perpetual union are considered as in divers respects unequal and disadvantageous to this state, and the objections stated on the part of this state, are viewed as just and reasonable, and of great moment to the welfare and happiness of the good people thereof; yet under the full conviction of the present necessity of acceding to the confederacy proposed, and that the interest of particular states ought to be postponed to the general good of the union: And moreover, in firm reliance that the candour and justice of the several states, will, in due time, remove as far as possible the objectionable parts thereof,

Section 2. *BE it enacted by the General Assembly of Delaware, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,* That the honorable John Dickinson, Nicholas Vandyke, and Thomas M'Kean, esquires, delegates appointed to represent this state in Congress, or any one, or more of them, be, and they hereby are, authorised, empowered and directed, on behalf of this state, to subscribe and ratify the said articles of confederation and perpetual union between the several states aforesaid.

Sect. 3. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That the said articles of confederation and perpetual union, so as aforesaid subscribed and ratified, shall thenceforth become obligatory on this state.

Passed February 1, 1779.

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