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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JUNE 5, 1862.

Read twice, and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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**AN ACT**

To prescribe an oath of office, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3       That hereafter every person elected or appointed to any office  
4       of honor or profit under the government of the United States,  
5       either in the civil, military, or naval departments of the pub-  
6       lic service, shall, before entering upon the duties of such  
7       office, and before being entitled to any of the salary or other  
8       emoluments thereof, take and subscribe the following oath or  
9       affirmation: "I, A B, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I  
10      have never voluntarily borne arms against the government of  
11      the United States since I have been a citizen thereof; that I  
12      have voluntarily given no aid, countenance, counsel, or en-  
13      couragement to persons engaged in armed hostility thereto;  
14      that I have neither sought nor accepted nor attempted to ex-  
15      ercise the functions of any office whatever under any authority

16 or pretended authority in hostility to the government of the  
17 United States ; that I have neither voluntarily renounced my  
18 allegiance to the government of the United States, nor yielded  
19 a voluntary support to any pretended government, authority,  
20 power, or constitution hostile or inimical thereto. And I do  
21 further swear (or affirm) that, to the best of my knowledge  
22 and ability, I will support and defend the Constitution and  
23 government of the United States, and all laws made in pur-  
24 suance thereof, against all enemies, foreign and domestic ;  
25 that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same ; that I  
26 take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or  
27 purpose of evasion ; and that I will well and faithfully dis-  
28 charge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter,  
29 so help me God ;” which said oath so taken and signed, shall  
30 be preserved among the files of the court, house of Congress,  
31 or department to which the said office may appertain. And  
32 any person who shall falsely take the said oath shall be guilty  
33 of perjury, and on conviction, in addition to the penalties now  
34 prescribed for that offence, shall be deprived of his office and  
35 rendered incapable forever after of holding any office or place  
36 under the United States.

Passed the House of Representatives June 4, 1862.

Attest:

EM. ETHERIDGE, *Clerk.*