

Passed 3d  
June 1715.

An ACT for the Appointment of Constables, and what relates to their Office; and ascertaining what Persons are Taxables. *Lib. LL. N<sup>o</sup> 4. fol. 136.*

Supplementary Acts 1719, *ch. 12*; and 1752, *ch. 7*.

The County Justices shall appoint Constables in each Hundred, at their first County Court after Michaelmas, who shall take the Oaths to the Government, and also the Oath of a Constable.

**B**E it Enacted, by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of his Majesty's Governor, Council, and Assembly of this Province, and the Authority of the same, That the Justices of Peace, in every respective County of this Province, at the first County Court held after Michaelmas, shall \* appoint Constables in each Hundred of their several and respective Counties; and the said Constables, so appointed, shall, before they enter into that Office, take the several Oaths appointed to be taken by all Officers by the Acts of Assembly of this Province, and the Oath of a Constable, in Form following, (*That is to say,*)

" You A. B. shall well and truly serve our Sovereign Lord the King, in the Office of a Constable. You shall see and cause that his Majesty's Peace be well and duly kept, according to your Power. You shall arrest all such Persons as in your Presence shall commit any Riot, Fray, or other Breach of his Majesty's Peace. You shall do your best Endeavour, upon Complaint to you made, to seize all Felons, Barretors, Rioters, or Persons riotously assembled; and if any such Offender shall make any Resistance with Force, you shall levy Hue and Cry, and cause them to be pursued so as they may be taken. You shall do your best Endeavour that Hue and Cry be duly raised and pursued against Murderers, Thieves, and other Felons, and fugitive Servants. And the Laws and Orders against Vagabonds, and such other idle Persons, coming within your Limits, be duly put in Execution at your County Courts coming. You shall, so far as in you lies, put in Execution the Act of Assembly against profane Cursing, Swearing and Drunkenness; and also true Presentment make of all Blood-sheds, Affrays, Outcries, Rescues, and other Offences committed against his Majesty's Peace, within your Limits. You shall well and truly execute all Precepts and Warrants to you directed from the Justices of the Peace of this County, or higher Officers. And you shall well and truly, according to your Power, Knowledge and Ability, do and execute all Things belonging to the Office of a Constable so long as you shall continue in this Office. So help you GOD."

\* By the Act of 1752, *ch. 7, §. 2*, the County Clerk shall signify such Appointment within 5 Days, to the Sheriff, and the Sheriff to the Person appointed, within 10 Days, on Penalty of 20 Shillings Currency.

Persons so appointed, refusing to take the aforesaid Oaths, &c. shall be fined 500<sup>th</sup> Tobacco.

II. And if the Person or Persons so appointed, shall, before any Justice of the Peace, refuse to † take the several Oaths aforesaid, or shall refuse to provide a sufficient Person to supply his Place, by serving in the said Office, and taking the Oaths aforesaid, that then such Person, so refusing, shall be fined to his Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, in the Sum of Five Hundred Pounds of Tobacco, towards the defraying the Public Charge of that County, and that such Justice of Peace before whom such Refusal shall be made, shall issue his Warrant to the Sheriff, to levy the said Fine by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattels of such Person so fined as aforesaid, returning to him the Overplus; which said Sheriff is hereby impowered and required to levy the same accordingly, and render an Account thereof to the Justices of Peace of that County at the Time of laying the County Levy.

† By the Act of 1752, *ch. 7, §. 2*, Persons so appointed shall qualify themselves by taking the said Oaths within 5 Days after Notice given by the Sheriff of such Appointment, under the Penalty in this Clause mentioned.

Constables to repair in Person, to every

III. And be it Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, by and with the Advice and Consent aforesaid, That every Constable, shall, on or before the Twentieth Day of June, in every Year respectively, repair in Person to every House or Habitation