

An Act for keeping holy the Lords day

Forasmuch as there is nothing more acceptable to almighty God then the true and Sincere Service & worship of him according to his holy will & forasmuch as the Sanctifying or keeping Holy of the Lords day commonly called Sunday is and hath been esteemed by the present & all primitive Christian Churches & people a principall and cheife part of the said worship, which day in most places in this Province hath been & still is profaned and neglected by a wicked and disorderly sort of people by working Drunkenness Swearing gaming vnlawfull pastimes and other Debaucheries to the high dishonour of almighty God the Scandall of Christian Religion & the apparent Detrimēt & Ruine of many of the Inhabitants of this Province for Remedy whereof for the futurē Bec itt enacted by the Right Hon: the Lord Prop: by and with the Consent of the upper and lower houses of this present Generall Assembly & the Authority of the same that from and after twenty dayes next after the end of this session of Assembly no person or persons within this Province shall worke or doe any bodily labour or occupation vpon any Lords day commonly called Sunday nor shall Comand or willfully suffer or permitt any of his or their children heire servants servants or Slaves to worke or labour as aforesaid (the absolute workes of necessity and mercy alwayes Excepted) And for that through the wicked and profane licentiousness of severall persons inhabiting or travelling into this Province itt hath been Customary for such sort of persons to spend the said day in the bodily Exercise or occupation of fishing Bec itt likewise Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that no person or persons whatsoever Inhabitant or Forrainger shall from & after the time aforesaid vpon any Lords day as aforesaid presume to take fish in any Bay Port or Creeke of or belonging to this Province with any Netts Trammels Sainds Hooks or Lines or any other instruments of fishing nor shall Comand willfully suffer or permitt any of his or their children heire servants servants or Slaves to fish as aforesaid. And God itt likewise Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that no person or persons from & after the time aforesaid shall profane or abuse the said Lords day as aforesaid by Drunkenness Swearing gaming at Cards Dice Billiards Shuffell boards Bowles Myndpins horsedraes fowling or hunting or any other vnlawfull sports or recreations And if any person or persons within this Province from & after the end of the said twenty dayes shall offend in all or any the premises he shall forfeit and pay for every offence one hundred poundes of Tobacco the said offences or any of them being done in view of any Justice of peace Magistrate or other head officer of any County City or Towne Corporate within their limitts Respectively or being proved vpon Oath.