



At a Sessions of general Assembly at St. Marks on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 1684  
Honour of God and the Welfare of this Province was enacted as follows

(No 1)

An Act ordeining certain Lawes for the Government of this Province

For the better Government of this Province Be it enacted and ordeined by the Lord Proprietor of the same of and with the Advice Assent and Approbation of all the Freemen & Burgeses assembled in this present Assembly in manner and form following. Holy Churches within this Province shall have all their rights and liberties —

All Inhabitants of this Province shall take an Oath of Allegiance to his Majesty. The Lord Proprietarie shall have all his Rights and Prerogatives.

The Inhabitants of this Province shall have all their Rights and Liberties according to the Great Charter of England.

The Lieutenant Generall (within the Province) and the Commander of the Isle of Kent (within that Island) except Appeal be made from this the Councell of the Province in Causes wherein the Lieutenant Generall is a Plaintiff shall cause right and Justice to be done in all Causes civil (wherein Right or Damages is demanded) according to the Lawes or laudable Usages of this Province or otherwise according to the Lawes or laudable Usages of England in the same or the like Cases as near as He or They shall be able to judge. He shall trye all the saide Causes and shall or may use Command & appoint all Power & means necessary or conducing thereunto and the said Lieutenant Generall & Commander shall take an Oath to administer equal Justice to all Persons without Favour or Malice of any One.

The Lieutenant Generall or any One of the Councell (within the Province) and the Commander of the Isle of Kent (within that Island) shall or may use Command & appoint all Power & means necessary or conducing to the apprehending of Felons or the keeping of the Peace and the said Lieutenant Generall and Councell shall or may trye and send for all offenders with any Punishment as they shall thinke the Offender to deserve except in Crimes extending to taking away of life or Member the Offender shall be first indicted and afterwards tried by twelve Freemen at the least and the Commander of the Isle of Kent shall or may trye & censure all Offenders within that Island w<sup>ch</sup> such corporall shame or Correction (not extending to life or Member as He shall thinke) the Offence to deserve & every One of the Councell shall take an Oath to defend & maintain the Rights & prerogatives of the Lord Proprietarie in all things & to assist the Execution of Justice without Favour or Malice of any One & to do all other things as becomes a Councell to doe.

The Secretary shall prove Wills & grant Administrations & use & appoint all Power & means necessary or conducing thereunto and the Commander of Kent shall take such Order as He shall thinke fitt for the saving of the Goods of deceased persons within that Island till a Will be proved or Administration granted.

The Captain of the Military Band, at the direction of the Lieutenant Generall shall use appoint & Command all power and means necessary or conducing in his Discretion to the safety or Defence of the Province and the Commander of Kent shall doe the like within that Island.

All Fees shall be paid to Publique Officers according to a Bill upon the Records of this Assembly Entituled an Act for Fees and all necessary publique Charges shall be defrayed by the Drawour of the Province upon the Receipt of the Colony or Province by Warrant from time to time from the Lieutenant Generall and Councell.

If any Goods be within the Province without any Challenging the same & having Right thereunto the Lieutenant Generall and Councell shall appoint how the same shall be employed.

Where the Goods of or in the hands of any person sued for Debt are not sufficient to pay all his Debts within the Province they shall be sold at an Outcry and distributed equally among all the Creditors inhabiting within the Province (except that the more & proper Debts of the Lord Proprietarie shall be first satisfied & then Fees & Duties to publick Officers & Charges & that Debts for Wines and hot Waters be not satisfied) till all other Debts be paid.

Every Person planting Tobacco shall plant & tend two acres of Corn. All Tobacco shipped out of the Province (except to England Ireland or Virginia) shall pay a Customs of five in the hundred.