

No 12)

An Act for raising an Annual Revenue for the better support of his Majesty's Government and Governour within this Province

Whereas upon the most serious Consideration of the several Laws heretofore made for raising and Levying Money for the support of the right Honourable the Lord Proprietary his Government in and over this Province and maintenance of his Governour for the time being. It doth not appear to this present General Assembly that there is any Law now in force to raise a sufficient support for that purpose but that from the twenty ninth day of September in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and thirty two down to this time the sum of Twelve Pence Sterling for every Acre of Land in this Province hath been collected and Levied from the Inhabitants thereof under Colour and Pretence of an Act of Assembly made the fifth day of September Seventeen hundred and four which this Government was immediately in the Crown Entituled Act for Settlement of an Annual Revenue upon her Majesty's Governour within this Province for the time being on a Supposition or misapprehension that that Act whereby the said Twelve Pence was given to her late Majesty Queen Anne her Heirs and Successors for the support of her Government for the time being in and over this Province did extend to the Lord Proprietary his Governour and Government And whereas after the most mature deliberation it manifestly appears to this General Assembly that the Lord Proprietary is not within the Words of the aforesaid Act nor by any reasonable Construction can be comprehended within the Sense and meaning thereof not only by what may be Gathered from the different Acts heretofore made of the like kind at the respective times when this Government was in the hands of the Proprietary or in the Crown whereby the aforesaid or the like duty in one case has been always given to the Proprietary and his Heirs and in the other to the King and Queen their Heirs and Successors for the support of their Government and Governour for the time being. But also from what appears to have been the Sense of our Present Lord Proprietary Concerning the same from the time of his Administration to the Government until they were seven hundred and thirty two passed by his authority and becoming a Party to several Acts made in that time for raising a Duty for the support of his Government in every of which the said Duty has been expressly given to himself and his Heirs without mentioning the King and likewise by his consenting to and passing another Act now subsisting intitled an Act for transferring the Payment of all such Fines and Forfeitures as shall hereafter arise or happen upon the Breach of any the Penal Laws of this Province to the right Honourable the Lord Proprietor although the Words by which these Fines and Forfeitures are given to the Kings and Queens aforesaid are exactly the same with those which give the Twelve Pence per Acre in the Act of Seventeen hundred and four and Sixty six as it is not the Intention of this Assembly to deprive the right Honourable the present Lord Proprietary of a sufficient and Honourable Support for his Government and Governour for the time being in and over this Province but only to feed and maintain to themselves their Constituents and Posterity that Principal and most Essential Branch of Liberty which they conceive themselves entitled to as Subjects of Great Britain of not being liable to the

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