

An Act touching Coopers & Gage of Tobacco Hoggsheds

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W H & L

Whereas Severall Complaints haue been made by diuers marchants masters of Shippes & others of the vnreasonable Size of Tobacco Caske made in this Prouince whereby they are disabled to answer such freight as they agree for and thereby discouraged to bring their ships hither which may turne to an apparent decay of Trade if not timely prevented And that the Coopers Employed to make Casque & sett upp Tobacco hoggsheds doe for the most part either through idlenesse or wiltullnesse neglect Refuse or delay to sett upp & finish the quantity of Hoggsheds & Tobacco Caske to be sett upp & made till very late in the yeare & till shipping time be almost done to the great prejudice of Marchants Planters & inhabitants in this Province Bee itt therefore Enacted by the Right Hon^{ble} the Lord Proprietary by and with the aduice & Consent of the upper and lower houses of this present Generall Assembly & the Authority of the same That all Tobacco Hoggsheds which shall hereafter be made within this Prouince shall be of the size of forty three inches in length & twenty seven Inches in the head & not under the size of forty two inches in the length & twenty six Inches in the head And that what Cooper or Coopers or other person or persons that shall make Tobacco Hoggsheds & doe not observe the gage aforesaid shall forfeit the said Caske and uppon Complaint thereof made be censured for his or their default by each Respective County Court where such person or persons doe Inhabitt And that any Cooper or Coopers person or persons whatsoever that shall agree wth any the Inhabitants of this Prouince and undertake with him or Them to sett upp or make his or their Tobacco Hoggsheds or Caske shall & are hereby Enjoynd to make Sett upp & finish one halfe of the said Tobacco Hoggsheds or Caske by the tenth day of October next & soe by the tenth day of October in any yeare And the said Cooper or Coopers person or persons soe agreeing or vndertakeing to Sett upp the said Caske as aforesaid shall & are alsoe hereby Enjoynd to make sett upp & finish the other moyty & halfe part of the said Tobacco hoggsheds or Caske by or before the tenth day of December next Comeing or by or before the tenth day of December in any yeare And if any Cooper or Coopers person or persons whatsoever within this Prouince soe agreeing & undertaking the same as aforesaid shall wilfully or otherwise neglect or refuse to make sett upp Compleate & finish the said Tobacco Hoggsheds & Caske aforesaid in such proporcons & by such tymes as aforesaid shall forfeit the Summe of one hundred pounds of Tobacco for every Tunn of Caske or Tobacco hoggsheds left att that time aforesaid unmade not sett upp & unfinished to be Recovered in the severall County Courts