

Lib. L. L.
No. 1.An Act touching Coop^{rs} and the
Gage of Tobbacco Hogsheads.

Whereas Severall complaints have been made by diverse Merchants Masters of Ships & others of the unreasonable size of Tobacco Cask made in this Province whereby they are disabled to answer such freight as they agree for, and thereby discouraged to bring in their Ships hither which may turn to an apparent decay of Trade if not timely prevented, And that the Coopers Employed to make Cask and sett up Tobacco Hogsheads, do for the most part either through Idleness or Wilfullness neglect refuse or delay to set up and finish the quantity of Hogsheads & Tobacco Cask to be sett up and made till very late in the year, and till Shipping time be almost done, to the great prejudice of Merchants Planters and Inhabitants in this Province Be it therefore Enacted by the King and Queens most Excellent Maj^{ty} by and with the advice and consent of this Generall Assembly and by the Authority of the same, That all Tobacco Hogsheads that shall hereafter be made within this Province shall be of the size of forty four Inches in length and thirty one Inches in the head, and not under the size of forty three Inches in length and thirty Inches in the head, And that what Cooper or Coopers or other person or persons that shall make Tobacco hoggs^{hds} and do not observe the Gage aforesaid, shall forfeit the said Cask and upon Complaint thereof made be censured for his or their default by each respective County Court where such pson or persons do Inhabit. And that any Cooper or Coopers person or persons whatsoever that shall agree with any of the Inhabitants of this Province and undertake with him or them to set up or make his or their Tobacco Hogsheads or Cask, shall and are hereby enjoyned to Set up and finish one half of the said Tobacco Hogsheads or Cask by the Tenth Day of October next and so by the Tenth day of October in any year, And the said Cooper or Coopers person or persons so agreeing or undertaking to sett up the said Cask as aforesaid, shall and are also hereby Enjoyned to sett up and finish the other Moyety or half part of the said Tobacco Hogsheads or Cask by or before the Tenth day of Decemb^r next coming, and by or before the Tenth day of Decemb^r in any year. And if any Cooper or Coopers person or psons whatsoever within this Province so agreeing and undertaking the same as aforesaid, shall wilfully or otherwise neglect or refuse to make sett up Compleate and finish the said Tobacco hoggsheads and Cask aforesaid in such proportion and by such times as aforesaid shall forfeit the sum of one hundred pounds of Tobacco for every Tunn of Cask and Tobacco Hogsheads left at that time