

Lib. L. L. Securitys or all or either of them for such Judgm<sup>t</sup> so Confessed as aforesaid any Law usage or Custom to the Contrary in any wise Notwithstanding.

An Act Impowering the Vestrymen to Assess their Parishioners for finishing & repairing of Churches.

Whereas by an Act made att a Session of Assembly begun and held att the Porte of Annapolis the Ninth day of July in the Year of our Lord 1696 Entituled An Act for the Service of Almighty God and the Establishm<sup>t</sup> of the Protestant Religion within this Province amongst other things it is Contained in the Sixth Article, That the Several Vestrymen of each respective Parish shall within twelve months after the publication of this Act provide att the Charge of the Parish faire Register Books of paper or Parchment the which the said Register shall keep and therein shall Register and fairly Enter in Writeing the publication of all Marriages Birth of Children Baptisms and burials &c And further in the said Clause it is Enacted That if the Vestrymen aforesaid shall faile in Providing such a Book as aforesaid within the time afores<sup>d</sup> they shall forfeitt five hundred pounds of Tobbacco each Vestrymen (the Minister Excepted) &c and Notwithstanding no waies Provided how the said Vestrymen should Assess theire Parishes for the purchasing of the s<sup>d</sup> Register Books and further it is said in the twelvth Article of the s<sup>d</sup> Act Be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that where there is an Incumbent upon the Benefice and Officiates in no other place the Vestrymen of the said parish shall not under Colour or pretext of finishing the said Church or keeping the same in reparaire withold or deteine from the said Incumbent any part of the fourty pounds of Tobbacco p poll under any pretext whatsoever Except what is by this Act before Appointed but for as much as most of the Churches of this Province are either not wholly finished or out of reparaire and no rule is provided (by the aforesaid Act) by which the severall parishe Churches shall be finished and kept in reparaire to the end therefore that the said Vestrys may be

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Supplied with such Sume or Sums of Tobbacco as shall be requisite and necessary to purchase Writeing Books and other Necessary and Usefull Books for their better direction and Guide in their Proceedings as also for repairing their Churches or other parochiall Charges it is prayed that it may be Enacted And be it Enacted by the Kings most Excellent Māty by and with the Advice and Consent of this Present Generall Assembly and the Authority of the same That when and as often as the Necessity of each respective Parish shall require such