

Bacon make full Satisfaction to the Party wronged, at the Discretion of the said Justice, and the Overplus to return to the Owner thereof.

Reverdy Ghiselin
Thomas Bacon.

Chap. XV An Act for the Publication of Marriages, and to prevent unlawful Marriages.

Be it Enacted, by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the Advice and Consent of his Lordship's Governor, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the Authority of the same, That all Persons who desire Marriage, shall apply themselves to a Minister for the contracting thereof, and shall cause due Publication to be made, according to the Rubrick of the Church of England, of their Intent to marry, at some Church or Chapel of Ease belonging to the Parish wherein the Woman, so intended to be married, shall be resident: And in case there be no Minister, Curate or Reader in such Parish, an Advertisement or public Notification of such intended Marriage, shall be set up at the Court-House Door of the County where such Marriage shall be intended, there to remain for the Space of Three Weeks at the least, of which Advertisement put up as aforesaid, the Clerk of the County Court, where such Advertisement shall be so put up, shall make a Certificate under his Hand, and the Seal of the County; and that it shall and may be lawful after such Publication, and Certificate thereof had, for any Minister, duly qualified, to join together in Matrimony, any such Persons so Published, according to the Liturgy of the Church of England; saving to the Minister of the respective Parishes, where such Publication shall be made, their just Dues for such Marriages.

II. And if any Person shall presume to contract Marriage, without such Publication, and Certificate thereof had as aforesaid, or without particular Licence from the Governor, for the Time being, do privately contract Marriage, every Man so contracted or married, shall be liable to a Fine of Five Thousand Pounds of Tobacco; and every such Minister joining in Marriage any Persons without Publication or Licence, or any ways infringing this Act, shall be liable to a Fine of Five Thousand Pounds of Tobacco; one Half of the said Fines to the Lord Proprietary, his Heirs and Successors, for the Support of Government of this Province, the other Half to the Informer; to be recovered in any Court of Record, by Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint or Information, wherein no Essoin, Protection, or Wager of Law to be allowed.