

Session Length or Breadth, abused, defaced or impaired, to be proved by the
 Laws Oath of any sufficient Person to whom the Tobacco is consigned in Great-Britain, or other sufficient Witness, taken before any Magistrate, and sent hither under his Hand and Seal, or by any other legal Proof whatsoever, made in this Province, or elsewhere, shall forfeit and pay the Sum of Six Hundred Pounds of Tobacco, or Fifty Shillings Sterling, to the Party grieved: To be recovered in any Court of Record in this Province, against such Master or his Sureties, by Action of Debt; or on the Case, within Two Years after the Date of the Bill or Bills of Lading of such Tobacco.

And be it further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That the Security or Securities, of any Master of Ship or Vessel, within this Province, shall be liable to make Satisfaction, according to this Act, for the cropping, cutting, abusing, defacing, or impairing, any Hogshead or Hogsheads of Tobacco, as aforesaid, and prosecuted in any Court of Record within this Province, that can hold Plea thereof; and that every Naval Officer within this Province, shall, on Pain of p. 38 Fifty Shillings Sterling, certify under his Hand and Seal, who are the Security or Securities of any such Master, which shall be sufficient Evidence in any Court of Record, where such Action is commenced, to prove who are the Security or Securities of such Master; for which Certificate, the Naval Officer may have and receive One Shilling, and no more: And that the several and respective Naval Officers within this Province, shall hang a fair Copy of this Act in their respective Offices, for the Perusal of Masters of Ships and Vessels: The said Naval Officer to have and receive for the said Copy, One Hundred Pounds of Tobacco, to be allowed in the County Levy.

Be it Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person or Persons having the immediate Rule, Direction, or Government of any Plantation where Tobacco is or shall be made, shall false pack any Hogshead, or use any fraudulent or deceitful Practice or Means to conceal or hide any Frost-bitten, Trashy Ground Leaves, small Scrubs, Stalks, Stems, Wood, Dirt, or any manner of Trash, or decayed old Tobacco, and shall offer to tender or pay away the same as good merchantable Tobacco, and shall be convict of such false packing, before any Justice of the Peace, who shall, by Virtue of this Act, have Cognizance thereof, as in Case of Small Debts, shall, for every such Offence, forfeit Four Hundred Pounds of Tobacco, to the Party to whom such Tobacco shall be paid or tendered, or offered to be paid, if such Party will prosecute for the same within Two Months after the Offence committed: And in Case such Party should neglect or refuse to prosecute, the said Penalty shall and may be recoverable by any other Person, to his own Use, that will inform and prosecute for the same within Three Months after such Neglect or Refusal aforesaid, before any such Justice; any Law, Usage, or Custom, to the contrary, notwithstanding.