

Public any person or persons whatsoever within this Province after the
 Record publication of this Act Prophanely Swear or Curse in the presence
 Office, or hearing of any one Justice of the Peace or head Officer of any Town
 London. City or Burrough within this Province or that shall be thereof Con-
 C. O. 5, victed by Oath of one Wittness or by the Confession of the party
 Vol. 731, offending shall forfeitt and pay for every such Offence the sume of
 Maryland. five shillings sterling to our Sovereigne Lord the King to his heires
 From and Successours to the use of the poor of such parish where such
 1694-1702. Offence shall be Comitted to be Leavyed upon such Offender or
 Acts Offenders by Warrant from such Justice of the Peace or head Officer
 of any Towne City or Burrough before whom such Offender or
 Offenders shall be Convicted to the Constable or other Officer by Sale
 of his her of their Goods or Chattells rendring to them the Overplus
 And in case that such Offender or Offenders have not any goods then
 to be sett in the Stocks for the space of two hours Provided allways
 and it is hereby Enacted That no person shall be prosecuted and
 troubled for any Offence against this Act unless the same be proved
 or prosecuted within Ten days after the Offence Comitted This Act
 to Endure for 3 years or to the end of the next Sessions of Assembly
 which shall first happen.

Acts of An Act Impowering the Vestrymen &c. to Assess their parishioners
 Oct. 1698, for finishing and repairing of Churches.
 ch. 20

Whereas by an Act of Assembly made at Sessions of Assembly begun and held att the Porte of Annapolis the 9th day of July in the year of our Lord 1696 Intituled an Act for the Service of Almighty God and the Establishment of the Protestant Religion within this Province amongst other things is contened in the 6th Article That the severall Vestrymen of each respective parish shall within 12 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 writing The publication of all marriages Births of Children Baptisms and burials &c. and further in the said Clause it is Enacted That if the Vestrymen aforesaid shall faile in provideing such a Book as aforesaid They shall forfeitt five hundred pounds of Tobacco each Vestryman (the Ministers Excepted) &c. And notwithstanding no way prescribed how the said Vestrymen should assess their parishes for the purchaseing of the said Register Books And further it is said in the twelfth Article of the aforesaid 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 and pretext of finishing the said Church or keeping the same in repaire withhold or deteine from the said Incumbent any part of the 40th per poll under any pretext whatsoever Except what is by this Act before Appointed But forasmuch as most of the Churches in this Province are either not wholly finished or out of repaire