

An Act ascertaining the Gage and Tare of Tobacco Hoggsheads and to prevent cropping cutting and Defacing Tobacco taken on board Shippes or Vessells upon Freight and for laying Impositions on Tobacco ꝑ the Hoggshead for the Support of Government and for the encouraging Settlements in this Province by ascertaining the manner of paying his Lordships Alienation Fynes and Quit Rents for the Terme therein proposed and for takeing of the Three pence ꝑ Hoggshead formerly raised for the publick Charge.

Liber LL. 4  
Acts  
p. 302  
(Calvert  
Paper,  
No. 812, 7)  
Acts of  
July, 1716,  
ch. 8  
[Superseded  
by 1717,  
ch. 7]

Forasmuch as the Laws heretofore made for ascertaining the Gage of Tobacco Hoggsheads have in great Measure proved ineffectual either for want of laying Sufficient Penalties upon the Offenders or of proper Methods to inflict them, but more especially as it seemes to this present Generall Assembly by requireing a Compliance with such a Gage as has been found by experience to tend to the ruin of such Traders as were strict Observers of it, the Generallity of Our Tobacco being of so light and Chafy a nature that it has been found wholly impracticable & in a manner impossible to Pack or Prize so much of it in a Hoggshead of the late Gage of Thirty Inches in the Diameter of the Head as would Suffice for the payment of Freight and other Charges ariseing thereon the Freighters of such small Hoggsheads haveing been frequently brought in Debt by the Smallness of the Quantity of Tobacco contained therein to the great Damage of the Tobacco Trade particularly of the fair Traders therein which seems in a manner to have brought the latest of the aforementioned Laws into a Generall Disuse it being rather more Mischeivous to the Freighters to be brought in Debt by their strict observance of that Gage than to Loose their Tobacco here for exceeding it for remedy whereof for the future

Be it Enacted by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary by and with the Advice and Consent of his Lordships Governour and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly and the Authority of the same That from and after the End of this present Session it shall and may be lawfull for any person or Persons whatsoever suspecting discovering or knowing of any Hoggshead or Hoggsheads of Tobacco that shall exceed Forty Eight Inches in the Length of the Stave or Thirty two Inches in the Diameter of the Head within the Croze or that shall exceed Thirty Seven Inches Diameter in the Bulge on any Accident or pretence whatsoever (Thirty Six Inches Diameter in the Bulge being supposed a Competent Gage) to call to his Assistance any Justice of the Peace Sherr Coroner Vestryman or Church Warden liveing or resideing within the County where such Tobacco shall be suspected Known or Discovered and to Enter into any House Ware house Ship Boat or other Vessell and there in the Presence of such Justice or other Officer afs<sup>d</sup> (who are hereby required to be present aiding and assisting to such Informer therein) to seize and mark with the broad Arrow every such Hoggshead or Hoggsheads of