

for amending the Staple of Tobacco, for preventing Frauds in his Majesty's Customs, and for the Limitation of Officers Fees, made at a Session of Assembly begun and held at the City of Annapolis, the Sixteenth Day of May, Seventeen Hundred and Forty Seven, as aforesaid, that the Defendant or Defendants may Plead the General Issue, and give the Special Matter in Evidence, and if it shall appear to the Court or Jury who shall Try the Fact, that the Bond, Bill, Mortgage, Bill of Exchange, Note, or other Security, upon which the Suit shall be commenced, was given for Money in lieu or stead of Tobacco, in order to elude the Provision made by this, or the said recited Act, as aforesaid, that the Plaintiff shall be Nonsuit, and pay the Defendants Costs.

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And to the End that no Defendant may be injured, by the Difficulty of proving the Fact, Be it Enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the Court, wherein any such Judgment hath been, or shall be entered, or wherein any such Action shall be commenced, to examine and interrogate the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs, upon his or their Oath, or Affirmation, in case a Quaker or Quakers, is or are concerned, for what Consideration such Judgment, Bond, Bill, Mortgage, Bill of Exchange, Note, or other Security, was passed, and if it shall appear upon such Examination, that the same was given or passed for Money, in stead and lieu of Tobacco, as already mentioned, that then and in such Case, the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs, shall be Nonsuit, and pay the Defendants Costs; and in Case any Plaintiff or Plaintiffs, shall refuse to submit to such Examination, such Refusal shall be deemed and taken to be a Confession, or Proof of the Fact.

[To prevent the Defendant from Injury, the Plaintiff may be sworn.]

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And be it likewise Enacted, That if any Plaintiff in any such Case, shall knowingly Swear or Affirm falsly, and be thereof convict, he, she, or they, shall suffer as in case of wilful and corrupt Perjury.

[Punishment for false swearing.]

Provided always, And it is the true Intent and Meaning of this Act, that nothing therein contained shall extend or be construed to extend, to vacate or abolish any Contract, Bargain, or Agreement, made for the Payment of Tobacco in Specie, before the said Sixteenth Day of May, Seventeen Hundred and Forty Seven; but that such Bargain, Contract, or Agreement, shall be and remain in full Force and Effect; any Thing in this Act contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

[Contract for Tobacco in Specie.]

And be it further Enacted, That all Bonds (with Power of Attorney to confess Judgment), taken for Money in lieu of Tobacco, between the Fifteenth Day of May, Seventeen Hundred and Forty Seven, and the First Day of December, Seventeen Hundrd and Forty Eight, shall be and are hereby made void and of no Effect: And it shall not be lawful for any Justices of any Court within this Province, to render or give Judgment on such Bonds, by Virtue of such Power of Attorney; and no Clerk or Clerks of any Court or Courts,

[Judgment Bonds taken for Money in lieu of Tobacco.]