

## STATUTES

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Made at WESTMINSTER, Anno 32 HEN. VIII. and A. D. 1540.

## CAP. IX.

**The Bill of Bracery and buying of Titles.**

The King our Sovereign Lord, calling to his most blessed Remembrance, that there is nothing within this Realm that conserveth his loving Subjects in more Quietness, Rest, Peace, and good Concord, than the due and just Ministration of his Laws, and the true and indifferent Trials of such Titles and Issues, as been to be tried according to the Laws of this Realm, (2) which his most Royal Majesty perceiveth to be greatly hindred *and letted* by Maintenance, Embracery, Champerty, Subornation of Witnesses, sinister Labour, buying of Titles and pretended Rights of persons not being in Possession, (3) whereupon great Perjury hath ensued, and much Inquietness, Oppression, Vexation, Trouble, Wrongs, and Disinheritance hath followed among his most loving Subjects, to the great Displeasure of Almighty God, the Discontentation of his Majesty, and to the great Hinderance and Let of Justice within this his Realm; (4) For the avoiding of all which Misdeameanors, and buying of Titles and pretended Rights, and to the intent that Justice may be more fully and indifferently ministered, and the Truth in causes of Contention plainly tried between his Subjects of this Realm: (5) Be it enacted by our said Sovereign Lord, with the Assent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and the Commons in this present Parliament assembled, and by Authority of the same, That from henceforth all Statutes heretofore made concerning Maintenance, Champerty, and Embracery, or any of them now standing and being in their full strength and force, shall be put in due Execution, according to the Tenures and Effects of the same Statutes.

II. And over that, be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no person or persons, of what Estate, Degree, or Condition soever he or they be, shall from henceforth bar-