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Laws confirmed by his Lordship the Lord Proprietary and the severall Originall
Laws into the said books Entred and from time to time to the end of every
Assembly signed allowed and confirmed by his Lordships father of happy
memory or his Lordship his or their Lieutenant or Chief Governour so
negligently and carelesly kept in loose papers Ragged and torn and scarce
legible to Justifie the Laws in the said books entred as aforesaid to the
great dishonour of his Lordship and the Province that the said Laws which
are the Warrant of all Judicall proceedings in civil and criminall matters
and other matters and concerns of the Province and the Originall from
which the Laws in the County Courts are transcribed should be so carelesly
and undecently kept for Remedy whereof and to the intent that our
Records may appear plain safe and secured to posterity the Delegates
of this present Generall Assembly doe pray that it may be enacted And be
it enacted by the Right Hon. the Lord Proprietary by and with the advice
and consent of the upper and lower houses of this present Generall Assembly
and the Authority of the same that the Secretary of this Province / in whose
custody the Records of this Province Remains and to whom the benefit of the
Copyes of such Records doe accrue / doe att or before the five and twentieth day
of may next ensuing cause all such Acts of Assembly and Laws of this Province
as shall be of force at the end of this present Session of Assembly to be entred upon
Record in a large new booke of a large folio and good substantiall paper well
bound in a leather cover for that purpose to be kept onely in the Secretaries
office in a faire and legible hand and character and shall also cause the
same to be examined by the Originall Acts Remaining upon Record under
the hands of the severall Clerks of both houses and his Lordship the Lord Proprietary
that now is his assent made therunto at the end of the last Session of Assembly
and the same so entred shall be sealed with the Great Seale and signed by
the Hon. the Secretary and that his honour the Secretary doe also cause
a list and Catalogue of the said Laws to be entred in the said booke and an
index or table of the principall matters therein contained to be made Alphabetically
for the more easy and ready finding out the matters therein contained and in
default thereof by the time aforesaid the said Secretary shall pay as a fine for
the same the summe of ten thousand pounds of Tobacco one halfe thereof to
the Lord Proprietary and the other halfe thereof toward the building of a place
to secure the Records and when the same is so done and written the said
Secretary shall at the next Generall Assembly be allowed and paid out of the
Publick Treasury so much Tobacco as the said Secretary shall reasonably
deserve.