

An Act for the Election of Sheriffs.

Forasmuch as there have been great Complaints General made from all parts of this Province that the long Continuance of the severall Sheriffs in their respective Offices hath been of ill consequences to the Inhabitants of this Province, and that the Lawes of England are no wayes suitable to this Province, for that it would be a great Injury to any such Sheriff to enjoy his said Office only one year. Be it therefore enacted by the King and Queens most Excellent Majesties by and with the Advice and Consent of this present Generall Assembly and the Authority of the same, That from and after the Publication hereof, no Sheriff or undersheriff within this Province shall continue or remain in his or their Office or Offices of Sheriff or undersheriff of such County, for any longer or greater time then five full years from the first time of his Entrance into such Office or Offices. And be it further enacted that if any such Sheriff or undersheriff shall for the future accept of any such Commission contrary to the true intent & meaning of this Act, Every such Sheriff shall forfeit and pay to their Majesties the sum of five hundred pounds sterl. & every such undersheriff shall forfeit and pay the sum of twenty pounds sterl. the one half of both the said Fines or Forfeitures of the said Sheriff or undersheriff to be to their Majesties for support of Government, the other