

ting shall think fit, unless such Commissioner or Commissioners make Lawful Excuse to be allowed of by the Court, and forasmuch as it happens many times in the Winter Season especially, that but two or three of the Commissioners do meet and attend upon the Days set and appointed as aforesaid, whereby all Process made Returnable that Court do fall and abate, and the several Plaintiffs are forced to Sue out new Writs to the great damage and delay of Suitors.

Be It Therefore Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that any two or three of the Commissioners, whereof one to be of the Quorum meeting as aforesaid, be hereby fully Authorized and Impowered to adjourn the Court to some other time after as to them shall seem meet, and that no Suit for want of a full Court do fall or abate, but the same shall be continued till the next Court, to be held according to such adjournment as aforesaid, and that if the first Day appointed by this Act for the holding the several and respective Courts be not time enough to do the business in that Court depending, then the Justices of such Court are hereby Impowered to adjourn from Day to Day until such time as the business returnable and tryable in that Court shall be finished, and whereas there have some Scruples arisen by the Commissioners of the respective County Courts, whether they shall or may do any other business in every June Court in every respective Year, then what was concerning Orphans, the true Intent and Meaning of this Act is, that the Commissioners of every respective County Court may and ought to do, hear, judge and determine any business depending in the said Court, at the same June Court between any persons whatsoever, as well as relating to any Orphans Business.

An Act for the publication of Marriages.

BE IT ENACTED by the King and Queens most Excellent Majesty's by and with the Advice and Consent of this present General Assembly and the Authority of the same, That all persons who shall desire Marriage shall apply themselves either to a Minister, Pastor or Magistrate for the contracting thereof.

And Be It further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that all persons within this Province intending Marriage, shall make publication thereof either at the Church, Chapel, County Court or Meeting House next where they dwell, and that at such time when such Church, Chapel or Meeting House shall be full, and thereby capable to take cognizance thereof, and that it shall and may be Lawful upon such Certificate had from the Minister, Pastor or County Court when such application shall have been made, of three Weeks after the said publication, for either Minister, Pastor or Magistrate to join in Marriage such persons aforesaid; and if any person shall presume to contract Marriage without such publication made, and Certificate thereof as aforesaid, or without particular Licence from the Governour for the time being, do privately within the Limits of this Province contract Marriage, every person so contracted or married shall be liable to a Fine of one thousand pounds of Tobacco, and every such Minister, Pastor or Magistrate joining in Marriage any persons without such publication or Licence by any ways infringing this Act, shall be liable to a Fine of five thousand pounds of Tobacco, the one half of the said Fines to our Lord and Lady the King and Queen their Heirs and Successors for the Support of Government, and the other half to the Informer, to be recovered by Bill Plaint Action of Debt or Information in any Court of Record, wherein no Essoyn Protection or Wager of Law to be allowed.

And Be It further Enacted, that all such Marriages as shall not be made before some Minister, Pastor or Magistrate with five sufficient Witnesses at least, according to the form aforesaid, shall and are hereby declared null and void.

And Be It further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that all Ministers Pastors and Magistrates, who according to the Law of this Province do usually join people in Marriage, shall join them in manner and form as is set down & express in the Liturgy of the Church of England, which being finished, the Minister, Pastor or Magistrate shall say, (I being lawfully by Law Authorized do pronounce you a lawful Man and Wife)

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