

ever payable in *England* or elsewhere and brought in here protested more than the sum of twenty pounds *per Cent* damages over and above the debt sued for & recover'd together with ordinary costs of suit any Law Statute Usage or Custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

And be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid that if any person or persons draw any Bill of Exchange upon any person or persons or Society or Company in *England* or elsewhere out of this Province and the same be protested & the protested Bills be return'd into this Province within four years after the date of such Bills then the debt occasion'd by the nonacceptance or nonpayment of such Bills shall be accounted a debt of equal nature with any specialty and in payment of debts by Executors & Administrators be prefer'd before any other debt which is not under hand & seal such Executor or Administrator having timely notice of such protested Bills of Exchange any usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

An Act declaring how Fees for Naturalization & other private Laws shall be proportioned.

W Hereas divers complaints have been made that sev'ral persons have exacted and taken immoderate Fees of persons for private Bills for prevention whereof for the future,

Be it Enacted by the Queens most Excellent Majesty by & with the Advice & Consent of her Majestys Governour Council & Assembly of this Province and the Authority of the same, that the Fees to be taken by the sev'ral Clerks & Officers belonging to the Assembly for Naturalization and other private Laws be such as shall be allow'd & adjudg'd by the respective Assemblies when & where such persons shall be naturalized & such Bill pass, and that no person whatsoever presume to demand or exact any more fees of any such persons naturalized or for whom such private Act shall pass than what are to allow'd and to be allow'd under the penalty of two thousand pounds of tobacco to every such person exacting or extorting more than what is or shall be allow'd by such Assembly assessing the Fees as aforesaid the said forfeitures to be recover'd in any Court of Record of this Province by Action of Debt Bill Plaintiff or Information where in no Writ Protection or Wager of Law to be allow'd, the one half to her Majesty for the Support of the Government of this Province the other half to the party grieved.

An Act for Amerciaments in the Provincial & County Courts.

W Hereas many Suits are arisen upon frivolous occasions by litigious persons for prevention whereof for the future,

Be it Enacted by the Queens most Excellent Majesty by & with the Advice & Consent of her Majestys Governour Council & Assembly of this Province & the Authority of the same, that all persons whatsoever that are cast in any Cause be they Plaintiff or Defendant shall be amerc'd beside the Damage and Cost in the Provincial Court fifty pounds of Tobacco to be employ'd as the Governour & Council shall think fit, and in the County Courts thirty pounds of tobacco to be employ'd & dispos'd of towards defraying the County charge in such manner as the Commissioners of each respective County shall think fit, and for the due collection thereof,

Be it Enacted by the authority aforesaid that the Clerk of the Provincial Court and the severall County Courts keep an exact account of the Amerciaments and deliver or send the same to the sev'ral Sherifs of the particular Countys who are hereby required to collect the same with the Levy and are accordingly impower'd for default of payment to make distress and commanded not to return any arrears except in case of Executors and Administrators who cannot pay without order.

And be it further Enacted that the Clerk of the respective Courts give unto the chief Judge of such Court a list of the amerciaments that Court imposed.

An Act confirming purchases made by the Commissioners of the respective Countys by virtue of a former Act of Assembly intituled an Act empowering the Commissioners of each respective Countys to purchase Land for the use of their respective Courts &c.

W Hereas at a General Assembly held at the Port of *Annapolis* the 26th day of May 1697 a certain Act of Assembly was made intituled an Act empowering the Commissioners of each respective County to purchase lands for the use of their respective Courts which is now executed.

Be it Enacted by the Queens most Excellent Majesty by & with the advice and consent of her Majestys Governour Council & Assembly of this Province & the authority of the same that what purchases of Lands the Commissioners had made according to the said Acts for the use of the respective Countys and recorded within the sev'ral and respective County Courts wherunto they properly belong shall be a perpetual Barr against