

And for the better and more effectually collecting the said duty *per pole* and paying the same to the uses by this Law intended & appointed, *per pole* Body capable in Law to recover & receive all rights & perquisites accruing or growing by the Law or Conscience to any parish Church or Churches for any pious use or uses whatsoever. Be it Enacted, that the Sheriff of each several County shall and is hereby obliged to collect & gather the said assessment of forty *per pole* of the several parishes within each respective County in his County, in the same manner and by the same authority as the publick & County Tax is collected, and shall pay the same forty pounds *per pole* to the Vestry of each respective Parish by this Act constituted & incorporated a Body politic if there be no Incumbent or Minister inducted inducted or appointed, but in every such parish where there is such Minister or Incumbent, and who shall be legally invested with the said duty of forty *per pole*, the same shall be always paid to the said Minister or Incumbent by the order of the Vestry as the same shall arise and grow due, after such Minister or Incumbent qualified as aforesaid, each Sheriff deducting for his salary in collecting the same five pounds of tobacco *per hundred* & no more, any usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

And the better to enable the several Vestrymen by former Laws and by this appointed and confirmed, to execute the trust and authority reposed in them; Be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid, by and with the advice & consent aforesaid, that the several Vestrymen of the several parishes within this Province, that now are or hereafter shall be chosen & elected as they have been so they shall be and continue, and are hereby confirmed & continued a Body Corporate and so to remain, and be by force in times to come to the uses & purposes following, that is to say, for the receiving the said forty pounds of Tobacco *per pole*, and the applying and disposing the same as by this Act is ordained.

And the said Vestrymen are hereby empowered and enabled by the name of the principal Vestryman and his Brethren Vestrymen of such parish, to recover take & receive into their custody and possession to be disposed of in pious uses for the benefit of the Church and Parish, any Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments, or any Estate in any Lands or Tenements of what nature or kind soever, or any manner of Goods, Chattels Debts, Credits or other personal Estate of what nature or kind soever, and by what manner of way soever given, granted bequeathed or bequeathed, either by Deed Gift Promise or Grant of the Donor or Donore in life, or by any last Will & Testament or any other lawful ways & means whatsoever; which said Vestrymen or Body Corporate are confirmed and hereby made capable of suing and being sued by the names and titles aforesaid of for and touching any the premises; of which Vestry or Body Corporate, the number shall always be six at least, except upon death or absence of any one of them, and in such case of death or absence or other legal incapacity of serving, the remaining part of such Vestry shall with all convenient speed meet, and by majority of voices elect and choose one or more sober and discreet person or persons Freeholders of each respective parish to supply such absence or defect, and such persons so elected and chosen after taking the usual Oath appointed by Act of Parliament, in stead of the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy and the Oath of a Vestryman, (that is to say) *"I do solemnly swear & declare that I will justly and truly execute the Trust & Office of a Vestryman of this Parish according to my best skill and knowledge without partial favour or affection, but with equal right to all persons for the benefit of this Church and Parish, and will not diminish or detain from any Minister legally qualified and preferred, inducted or appointed by his Excellency the Governour or other person legally authorized thereto, any right perquisite or benefit given by Law. So help me God."* And subscribing the Seal and Association, shall be deemed & taken as one of the Vestry to all intents and purposes. And if any person so chosen Vestryman shall refuse to serve and take the Oaths aforesaid, he shall be fined one thousand pounds of Tobacco to his Majesty as aforesaid, and the same method shall always be observed to perpetuate the succession of the Vestry in all times to come.

Provided always, that in every parish where any Minister or Incumbent is, or shall be inducted, inducted, appointed & invested with the forty *per pole* and residing therein, he shall during his continuance aforesaid and no longer be one of the Vestry of such parish, and principal of such Vestry, altho' there be the number of six persons before.

And for keeping a fair Register of all such Vestry proceedings, and for Registering of all Births Marriages & Burials in each respective parish, Be it Enacted by the authority aforesaid, that each Vestry shall and is hereby obliged to appoint & keep a person for a Register, who shall at all times keep a fair Register of the Vestry proceedings in executing their trust and authority; which Register shall also take the Oaths aforesaid, and also an oath given him by the said Vestry for the due and faithful executing his said Office, and shall make true Entry of all Vestry proceedings, and of all Births Marriages and Burials (Negroes and Mallatoes excepted) that is to say, the Christian and Surname, with the Day Month & Year of every such Birth Marriage or Burial; to which purpose, all and every the inhabitants of each parish that are either Parents Guardians Overseers, Masters or Mistresses of any persons born married or buried, are hereby required & required to give notice to the Register of such Birth within two Months after each Birth marriage or burial, and pay him six pence for entering