

pole than what such adjacent parish shall consent and agree with him yearly, and the true intent & meaning of this Act, that what sum or sums of Money Tobacco Goods Chaires or any other Interest, except Land given to the use of the Church, and the forty per pole that shall come into the Vestrys Hands by any means whatsoever as aforesaid, shall always be employ'd in the first place to repairing the Church or Chapel and what appertains to it, and providing decent ornaments & requisites for the same and other parochial charges, and in the next place for and towards the educating and instructing poor Orphans of the Parish that are not able to procure instruction themselves; and if any remains over and beyond what will answer these occasions to such other pious and charitable uses as the Vestry and Churchwardens of such Parish shall find most requisite in their directions: And that the several Vestrymen of each respective Parish may not be discouraged to look after any thing that by any means as aforesaid becomes the Parish right and due, Be it Enacted by the authority advice and consent aforesaid, that in any Action by them commenced in the name of a Vestry and for the benefit of the Parish as aforesaid, they shall not be obliged to pay any Fees or cost of Suit to any person or Officer unless they recover in the same action, nor pay the defendant any cost in case the Vestry shall not recover, or be cast on such Tryal.

And that the major part of the Members of every Vestry shall not be construed capable to proceed in any matter, and that where there are not or shall not be Ministers in any Parish, it shall and may be lawful for the Vestry to provide some sober & discreet person as a Reader, and agree with him for such service per Year or otherwise for lets time, and allow him his pay out of the forty per pole what part thereof they shall agree for, not exceeding the one half yearly of such Revenue, and upon such Readers taking the said Oaths appointed by Act of Parliament, subscribing the Test and Association, and procuring License from his Excellency the Governour or other person thereunto authorized, shall and may read Divine Service, Homilies & other good Authors of practical Divinity at the usual times in such Church or Chapel, and therein shall demean himself according to the Liturgy of the Church of England as aforesaid.

Lastly, It is Ordained and Enacted by the authority advice & consent aforesaid, that the several Fines & Forfeitures that shall happen by the tenor of this Act, shall be recover'd by action of Debt in his Majestys Name, his Heirs & Successors, and applyed to the use of the parish and in such manner as before directed in this Act. And that one Act made at a General Assembly begun and held at the City of St. Marys the 10th day of May 1692, intituled an Act for the Service of Almighty God &c. One other Act made at a Sessions of Assembly begun and held at the Port of Annapolis the 8th day of May 1695 intituled an additional Act to the Act of Religion, one other Act made at a Sessions of Assembly begun & held at the Port of Annapolis the 9th day of July 1696 intituled an Act for the Service of Almighty God &c. and one other made at a Sessions of Assembly begun and held at the Port of Annapolis the 28th day of June 1699 intituled an Act empowering the Vestry to assess their parishners for finishing & repairing their Parish Churches, and every part of every of the said Laws be and are hereby repealed and made void.

*An Act for sanctifying and keeping holy the Lords Day commonly called Sunday.*

As much as the sanctifying and keeping holy the Lords Day commonly called Sunday hath been and is esteemed by the present and all the primitive Christians & People to be a principal part of the Worship of Almighty God and the Honour due to his Holy Name.

Be it Enacted by the Kings most Excellent Majesty by & with the Advice & Consent of this present General Assembly and the Authority of the same, that from and after the publication of this Law, no person or persons whatsoever within this Province shall work or do any bodily labour or occupation upon the Lords Day commonly called Sunday, nor shall command or wilfully suffer any of his her or their children servants or slaves to work or labour as aforesaid (the works of absolute necessity and mercy always excepted) nor shall suffer or permit any of his her or their children servants or slaves, or any other under their authority to abuse or profane the Lords Day as aforesaid, by drunkennels, swearing, gaming, fowling, fishing, hunting or any other sports pastimes or recreations whatsoever.

And if any person or persons within this Province from & after the publication hereof shall offend in all or any of the premises, he she or they so offending shall forfeit and pay for every offence the sum of one hundred pounds of tobacco to the use of the poor of the parish where the offender or offenders do dwell and reside, the said offences or any of them being done in view of any Justice of the peace, Magistrate or other head Officer of any County City or Town Corporate within this Province within their limits respectively or being proved by the Oath of two or more Witnesses, or by confession of the party offending before any such Magistrate Justice or head Officer within their several limits respectively wherein such offences shall be committed, to which end every Justice Magistrate or other head Officer shall have power by this Act to administer Oath to such witness or witnesses, any of which sum or sums of tobacco so forfeited shall and may be executed and levied by the Sheriff or Constable by Warrant to any of them directed from any such Justice or Justices of the peace Magistrate or other head Officer as aforesaid within their several limits, where all or any of the said offences shall be committed or done, by distress or sale of the offenders goods rendering the party the overplus, all which shall