

At an Assembly held at the Port of *Annapolis*, the first Day of *July*, in the 8th Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord King *William &c.* Annoq; Domini 1696. Francis Nicolson Governour.

An Act for sanctifying and keeping Holy the Lord's Day, commonly called *Sunday*.

**F**ORASMUCH as the Sanctifying and keeping Holy of the Lord's Day commonly called *Sunday*, hath been and is Esteemed by the present and all Primative Christians and People, to be a principal Part of the Worship of Almighty God, and the Honour which is due to his holy Name.

*Be it Enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of this present General Assembly and by 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 prophane the Lord's Day as aforesaid; by Drunkenness, Swearing, Gaming, Fowling, Fishing, Hunting, or any other Sports or Pastimes or Recreations, whatsoever. And if any Person or Persons within this Province, from and after the Publication hereof, shall offend in all or any the Premisses; 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 said Offender or Offenders do dwell and reside, the said Offence 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 Forfeitures shall be to our Sovereign Lord the King, his Heirs and Successors, to the use aforesaid, to be recovered in any Court of Record within this Province, by any Person that will sue for the same, by Bill, Plaint or Information; wherein no Essoyn, Protection or Wager of Law to be allowed: And the said

No Persons shall work on Sunday nor Command or will freely suffer their Children or Servants so to do.

Nor shall suffer or permit them or any under their Authority to prophane it by Drunkenness, Swearing, Gaming &c.

On pain of 100 l. of Tobacco, The manner of Conviction.

And leaving the fine.