

Be it Enacted by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the Advice and Consent of his Lordship's Governour, and the Upper and Lower Houses of this Present General Assembly, and the Authority of the same, That whensoever any Vacancy shall happen by the Death or Removal of any Member of the Lower House of Assembly, Writs of Election shall immediately Issue, upon the Honourable Speaker, for the time being, his Issuing his Warrant to the Secretary to prepare such Writ or Writs, directed to the several Persons or Body Politick to whom the Execution of such Writ shall belong, who are hereby Authorized and Impowered immediately to proceed to the Execution of such Writ or Writs, according to the Directions of the aforementioned Law, without any regard had to the space of time betwixt the Test and Return of such Writ or Writs, so as Publick Notice be given of the Election in a County, according to the directions of the said Law, and Four Days Notice of the Election in each City or Borrough.

How Writs of Election to Issue on Death or Removal.

And whereas notwithstanding all the Measures that have been hitherto taken for preventing the Growth of Popery within this Province, It is very Obvious, that not only profest *Papists* still Multiply and Increase in Number, but that there are also too great Numbers of others that adhere to and espouse their Interest, in Opposition to the *Protestant Establishment*. And being under just Apprehensions (from what Steps they have already taken) that if *Papists* should continue to be allowed their Vote in electing Delegates, they, with their Adherents, and those under their Influence, will make such a Party at the Elections of many of the Counties within this Province, as well as the City of *Annapolis*, as to determine the Choice in some of their great Favourites and Adherents, which if they should accomplish, how much it would tend to the Discouragement and Disturbance of his Lordships *protestant Government*, is not easie to Imagine. It's therefore Humbly prayed, That it may be Enacted,

Preamble.

And be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, by and with the Advice and Consent aforesaid, That all Protest *Papists* whatsoever, be (and are hereby declared) Uncapable of giving their Vote in any Election of a Delegate or Delegates within this Province, either for Counties, Cities or Borroughs, Unless they first Qualify themselves for so doing, by taking the several Oaths appointed to be taken by an Act of Assembly of this Province entituled, *An Act for the better security of the Peace and Safety of his Lordship's Government* and the *Protestant Interest within this Province*, and subscribe the Oath of Abjuration and Declaration therein Mentioned.

None to Vote unless they take the Oaths.

And farther, inasmuch as too many Persons that are really *Papists* or *popishly* Inclined, act in disguise, and will not make any Publick profession of their Principles, for the better and more effectual carrying on their wicked and Malicious Designs for the Undermining and Subverting our present Establishment.

If required

Be it therefore further Enacted by the Authority and Consent aforesaid, That it shall and may be Lawful for the Sheriff or other Judges of Elections, and such Sheriff or other Judges are hereby required, as often as any of them shall see needful (or upon the information of any other Person duly qualified to Vote) to tender and administer the Oaths and Subscriptions aforesaid, to any Person or Persons suspected to be *Papists* or *popishly* inclined, and upon their Refusal, to set aside such Vote or Votes.

Provided always, That nothing in this Act be construed to debarr or hinder any of the People called and generally reputed *Quakers* from their Votes in Election, they being otherwise duly qualified.

Except Quakers

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