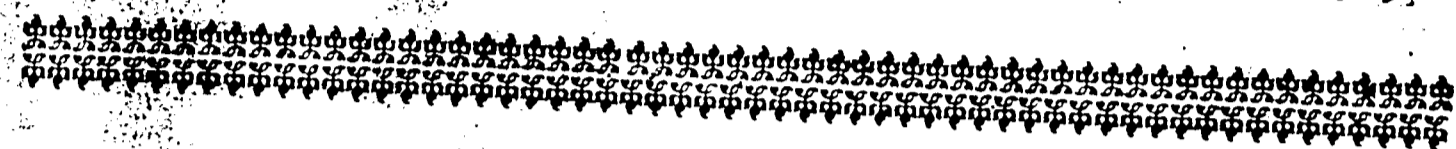


ever, bearing Date the Eighth Day of *June, Anno Domini*, One thousand six hundred twenty six, and ordered to be recorded in the Journal of the Governor and Council, and the House of Burgesses of this General Assembly, be of absolute and full Force, and available in Law, to the Uses therein expressed, according to the true Intent and Meaning thereof; Any Defect in Form, or Want of Form in the same notwithstanding.

Pass'd October 2. 1696.

Revis'd May 31. 1715.



An Act for the Establishment of Religious Worship in this Province, according to the Church of England; and for the Maintenance of Ministers.

12^o 5^o

FORASMUCH as in a well grounded Christian Commonwealth, Matters concerning Religion and the Honour of God, ought in the first place to be taken into Consideration, and honest Endeavours to attain to such good Ends countenanced and encouraged, as being not only most acceptable to God, but the best Way and Means to obtain his Mercy, and a Blessing upon a People or Country; Be it therefore 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 the Book of Common Prayer, and Administration of the Sacraments, with other Rites and Ceremonies of the Church, according to the Use of the Church of *England*; the Psalter or Psalms of *David*, and Morning and Evening Prayer therein contained, be solemnly read by all and every Minister or Reader in every Church, which now is, or hereafter shall be Settled and Established within this Province; and that all Congregations and Places for the Publick Worship, according to the Usage of the Church of *England*, within this Province, for the Maintenance of whose Ministers, and of the Persons Officiating therein, any certain Income or Revenue is or shall, by the Laws of this Province, be established and enjoyned to be raised or paid, shall be deemed settled and established Churches.

AND for the Encouragement of Faithful and Able Ministers, labouring in the Work of the Gospel, to come and reside in this Province; Be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That a Tax or Assessment of Forty Pounds of Tobacco *per Poll*, be Yearly and every Year successively levied upon every taxable Person within each respective Parish within this Province, as they have been, now are, or hereafter shall be laid out, limited, and appointed by the Laws of this Province, and entred upon Record, as the said former Laws therein did direct; which said Assessment of Forty Pounds of Tobacco *per Poll*, shall always be paid and allowed to the Minister of each respective Parish, having no other Benefice to officiate in, presented, inducted, or appointed by his Excellency the Governor or Commander in Chief for the time being: And every such Minister is hereby required and enjoyned to appoint, and constantly to keep a Clerk of such Parish-Church, and to pay and satisfy such Clerk the Sum of One thousand Pounds of Tobacco, Yearly and every Year, out of the said Forty *per Poll*.

AND to prevent all illegal and unlawful Marriages, not allowable by the Church of *England*, but forbidden by the Table of Marriages; Be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no Minister, Priest, or Magistrate, shall presume to joyn together in Marriage any Persons whatsoever, contrary to the Table of Marriages by this Act appointed to be set up in every Parish-Church