

An Act for Publication of Marriages.

No. 8.

BE it Enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of Her Majesty's Governor, Council, and Assembly of this Province, and the Authority of the same, That all Persons, who desire Marriage, shall apply themselves either to a Minister, Pastor, or Magistrate, for the Contracting thereof.

AND be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, by and with the Advice and Consent aforesaid, That all Persons within this Province intending Marriage, shall make Publication thereof either at the Church, Chapel, County Court, or Meeting-house next where they dwell, and that at such Time when such Church, Chapel, or Meeting-house shall be full, and thereby capable to take Cognizance thereof: And that it shall and may be lawful, upon Certificate had from the Minister, Pastor, or County Court, where such Publication shall have been made, Three Weeks after the said Publication, for either Minister, Pastor, or Magistrate, (where no Minister can be had) to joyn in Marriage such Persons as aforesaid: And if any Person shall presume to contract Marriage without such Publication made, and Certificate thereof had, as aforesaid, or without particular Licence from the Governor for the time being, do privately, within the Limits of this Province, contract Marriage, every Person so contracted or married, shall be liable to a Fine of One thousand Pounds of Tobacco: And every such Minister, Pastor, or Magistrate, joyning in Marriage any Persons without such Publication or Licence, or any ways infringing this Act, shall be liable to a Fine of Five thousand Pounds of Tobacco; one Half of the said Fines to our Sovereign Lady the Queen, Her Heirs and Successors, for the Support of the Government of this Province, and the other Half to the Informer, to be recovered by Bill, Plaint, Action of Debt, or Information, in any Court of Record, wherein no Essoign, Protection, or Wager of Law, to be allowed.

AND be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, by and with the Advice and Consent aforesaid, That all Ministers, Pastors, and Magistrates, who, according to the Law of this Province, do usually joyn People in Marriage, shall joyn them in Manner and Form, as is set down and expressed in the Liturgy of the Church of *England*; which being finished, the Minister, Pastor, or Magistrate, shall say, *I being hereunto by Law authorized do pronounce you lawful Man and Wife.*

AND be it further Enacted by the Authority, Advice, and Consent aforesaid, That the Minister, Pastor, or Magistrate, by Virtue of this Act, is empowered to ask, demand, and receive, from the Parties so married or joyned together, the Sum of One hundred Pounds of Tobacco, and no more.

Pass'd October 3d, 1794.

Revis'd May 30th, 1715.

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