

foresaid, shall forfeit, for every such Hoghead or Hogheads, not having the Weight set thereon, as aforesaid, the Sum of Six hundred Pounds of Tobacco; the one Half thereof to our Sovereign Lord the King, His Heirs and Successors, toward the Defraying the Charge of the County where such Offence shall be committed, the other Half to the Informer, or him or them that shall sue for the same; to be recovered in such County-Court, by Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint, or Information, wherein no Essoign, Protection, or Wager of Law to be allowed.

AND for the better Ascertainig what shall be allowed for the Value of a Tobacco Hoghead; Be it Enacted, That the Receiver of any Hoghead of Tobacco shall pay and allow to the Owner or Owners thereof, for such Hoghead received, the Sum of Forty Pounds of Tobacco, to be added to the Neat Weight of such Tobacco.

AND whereas the Inhabitants of this Province, that ship their Tobacco on Board Ships and other Vessels upon Freight, are much abused, by Cropping, Cutting, Lessening, and Diminishing of the Hogheads, wherein such Tobacco is packed, by the Masters of Ships or other Vessels, or by other Persons under their Command and Government: For Remedy whereof for the future; Be it Enacted by the Authority, Advice, and Consent aforesaid, That if any Master of a Ship or other Vessel, within this Province, after the End of this present Session of Assembly, shall receive any Hoghead or Hogheads of Tobacco on Board his said Ship or Vessel, on Freight, and shall, either by himself, or any other Officer or Person on Board his said Ship or Vessel under his Command, cut, or suffer any Hoghead or Hogheads of Tobacco to be cut, cropped, or lessened in their Length or Breadth, or by any other Ways or Means abused, defaced, or impaired; that then and in every such Case, such Master of Ship or Vessel, for every Hoghead of Tobacco so cut, or suffered to be cut or lessened in their Length or Breadth, abused, defaced, or impaired, to be proved by the Oath of any sufficient Person, to whom the Tobacco is consigned in *Great Britain*, or other sufficient Witnesses, taken before any Magistrate, and a Certificate thereof made by any Notary Publick or Magistrate, and sent hither under his Hand and Seal, or by any other legal Proof whatsoever, made in this Province, or elsewhere, shall forfeit and pay the Sum of Six hundred Pounds of Tobacco, or Fifty Shillings, to the Party grieved; to be recovered in any Court of Record in this Province, against such Master, or his Security, by Action of Debt, or on the Case, within Seven Years after the Date of the Bill or Bills of Loading of such Tobacco.

AND be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Security or Securities of any Master of a Ship or Vessel within this Province, shall be liable to make Satisfaction, according to this Act, for the Cropping, Cutting, Abusing, Defacing, and Impairing of any Hoghead or Hogheads of Tobacco, as aforesaid, and prosecuted for the same in any Court of Record within this Province, that can hold Plea thereof; and that every Naval Officer within this Province, shall, on Pain of Fifty Shillings, certifie under his Hand and Seal, who are the Security or Securities of any such Master; which shall be a sufficient Evidence in any Court of Record, where such Action is commenced, to prove, who are the Security or Securities of any such Master; for which Certificate, the Naval Officer may have and receive One Shilling, and no more: And that the severall and respective Naval Officers within this Province, shall hang a fair Copy of this Law in their respective Offices, for the Perusal of all Masters of Ships and Vessels; the Naval Officer to have and receive for the said Copy, One hundred Pounds of Tobacco, to be allowed in the County Levy.

AND forasmuch as by the Enlargement of Tobacco Hogheads from the late Gauge of Thirty Inches in the Diameter of the Head to this present Gauge, a large Quantity of Tobacco will be exported in each Hoghead, whereby the severall Duties and Impositions on Tobacco by the Hoghead will be evidently Retrenched and Lessened, unless a just Regard be had to the Preservation of them