

At a Sessions of Assembly begun and held at the Port of *Annapolis*, December the 5th, *Anno Domini* 1704, were Enacted these Laws following.

An ACT for the Preservation of the several Harbours and Landing-Places within this Province.

BE it Enacted, by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of Her Majesty's Governour, Council and Assembly of this Province, and the Authority of the same, That from and after the Publication of this Act, no Person or Persons whatsoever, whether Inhabitant or Foreigner, trading with Ships or Vessels, of greater or lesser Burthen, having a Deck, shall unload or cast out of their said Ships or Vessels any kind of Ballast into the Harbours or Creeks where they ride, but shall lay the said Ballast on the Shoar above High-Water Mark: And whosoever shall presume to do contrary to the Directions of this Act, shall for every such Default, forfeit and pay Two Thousand Pounds of Tobacco, one Half to our Sovereign Lady the Queen, to be imployed for the Support of the Government of this Province, and the other Moiety to him or them that shall sue for the same; to be recovered by Action of Debt or Information, wherein no Esloyn, Protection or Wager of Law to be allowed.

None shall cast Ballast out of decke Vessels under high water Mark, on pain of 2000 l. of Tobacco.

And be it further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, by and with the Advice and Consent aforesaid, That every respective Naval Officer within this Province, or Collector, for the Time being, or that shall hereafter be, shall at their own proper Cost, take out a Copy of this Act from the Office where the Original Transcript of the Body of the Laws shall be kept, signed by the Keeper of the said Laws, and the same affix at their respective Office Doors, to the End all Commanders, and Masters of Ships, or other Vessels, deck'd as aforesaid, may have due Cognizance thereof; and if such Naval Officer refuse or neglect to take out such Copy and affix the same, as aforesaid, he shall forfeit and pay Two Thousand Pounds of Tobacco, the one Half to our Sovereign Lady the Queen, to be imployed to the Use, Intent and Purpose aforesaid, the other Half to the Informer, to be recovered as aforesaid,

Every Naval Officer to fix the Copy of this Act at his Office Door, on pain of 2000 l. of Tobacco.

And be it Enacted, by the Authority, Advice and Consent aforesaid, That if any Person or Persons shall presume to build or make any Hedge or Ware a-cross any Creek or River towards the Head or narrow Parts thereof, below any publick Landing-Places, so as to prejudice and dam up the Channel, shall be liable to a Fine of Five Hundred Pounds of Tobacco, to be recovered as aforesaid, to the Uses aforesaid.

Wares or Hedges not to be made, on pain of 500 l. of Tobacco.