

Delegates ~~signed order~~ W. Sayland Esq
April the 10th 1707

Read and assented to by her Majesty's
Honble. Council ~~signed order~~ ~~of the Council~~

April the 15th 1707: On the behalf of her Majesty Queen Anne
of England &c. This be a Law

Seal Jo: Seymour

*The purposes of this Act
being provided for in an Act
made 1713 This was repealed*

An Act to prevent the abuse of breaking open and
concealing publick & private Letters
Whereas the Trade and Commerce of this province is in great
measure Confirmed to the Kingdom of England and the
Inhabitants of this Province of Necessity are obliged to Lodge
their Effects and wholly Correspond with the merchants in
England by which means we have great dependance upon
their advice in Trade and often protested bills of Exchange are
remitted hither to the severall persons interested therein who
are sometimes of Considerable Value and for want of due
Care of such Letters in which the same are inclosed no stiled
post houses being appointed for the reception of them many
Times sundry Evill minded persons find occasion clandestinely
to take such Letters out of the publick houses (where they are
generally Left) and break open and Consequence the same to
the great Detriment of sundry of the Inhabitants mer-
chants & Traders and many ill Designing ^{persons} who have drawn
bills of Exchange not having any Bottom in England to
answer the same well knowing and observing what merchants
or merchants such bills are remitted do diligently watch the
Returnes of such bills from the merchants and guessing at
some Letters to be the Courts of their protested Bills get
(them)