

for many stripes not exceeding thirty nine as the Justices before whom  
such Conviction shall be shall ad judgement. It is enacted that this act shall  
not be construed to extend as to the <sup>same</sup> to women who have bastards and  
doe refuse to Discover the Father or begotter of such Children but that  
in such Cases shall be in the Discretion of the Justices before whom  
such woman or woman shall be Convicted either to take the fine by  
this act appointed or to award Corporall punishment anything in  
this act before to the contrary notwithstanding.

And for the Ascertainning what woman shall be accounted Seild  
Be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid by and with the  
Advice and Consent aforesaid that it shall and may be Lawfull  
for the minister Vestry and Churchwardens of any parish where  
there is a minister also for the Vestry and Churchwardens where there  
is no minister before any Admonition by them or any of them given  
in pursuance of the directions aforesaid to give notice in  
Cause notice to be given to any person or persons by them or the Ma-  
jor part of them Suspected of Lewdness or Incontinency and  
being or Residing within their Respective Parishes to appear  
before them or the Major parts of them at such time and place as  
they or the Major parts of them shall appoint and on the appearance of  
such person or persons to acquaint them of the Suspitions that is had of  
them and to hear what Reasonable Excuse such persons shall offer why they  
ought not to be proceeded against according to Law as fornicators or  
adulterers as the Case shall happen and in Case the person or persons  
having such notice given them shall not appear according to such notice on  
Affidavit of such notice given or appearing do not excuse or acquit them  
of the grounds of such Suspition in such manner as such Minister  
Vestry and Churchwardens as aforesaid shall approve that then it shall and may  
be Lawfull for such Minister Vestry and Churchwardens or the Major parts  
of them as aforesaid and they are hereby required to admonish such person or  
persons according to the directions aforesaid which admonition together  
with <sup>the Company of</sup> proof of the Cohabitation of the parties so admonished or their  
frequenting each other contrary to and after such admonition given  
shall be sufficient Evidence in any Court of this Province to Convict the  
persons so Cohabiting or frequenting each others Company after admoni-  
tion given as aforesaid of fornication or adultery as the Case shall happen  
and Subject them to the penalties aforesaid any Law Statute or  
Customs to the contrary notwithstanding.

Done the 21<sup>st</sup> 1715 Read and assented to by the House of Delegates and signed by his Majesty's Council  
order the Macnemara's &c. Signed for the Council