

An Act for the better Administration of Justice in Testamentary affairs granting Administrations recovery of Legacies securing filial portions and Distribution of Intestates Estates.

WHEREAS for due Administration of Justice It is most necessary that the Will of all persons may be duly proved & executed and Letters of Administration of the Estates of all persons dying without Wills may be granted to such persons who have the best right to succeed thereto & all legacies speedily recovered & filial portions & Orphanes Estates duly secured & duly obtained according to Law & Justice

Be it enacted by the Kings most Excellent Majesty by & with the advice & Consent of His Majestys Governour Councill & Assembly of this Province & the Authority of the same That the Judge or Comissary General for probat of Wills & granting Administrations shall hold his Court once in two Monthes at the least or oftner as the Case shall require & therein shall proceed according to the Laws of England now in force or to be hereafter in force within twelve Monthes after such laws shall be published in the Kingdome of Great Brittain if pleaded before him in such Cases as by this present Act is provided & that it shall & may be lawfull for the Judge for probat of Wills to take the probat or Cause to be proved any last Will or Testament within this Province altho the same Concerns titles of Land any Law Statute usage or Custome to the contrary notwithstanding - And to the end that all filial portions may be secured to the Children of all persons dying Intestate & Legacies to Legatees of persons making Will or Testaments - Be it likewise enacted by the authority aforesaid by & with the advice & Consent aforesaid first that the Judge for probat of Wills and granting Administrations shall call all Executors & Administrators to exhibit Inventories within three Monthes & render acc^{ts} within twelve Monthes next after Administration Comitted of the personall Estates of such deceased persons & if any adm^r shall fail to exhibit such Inventory or give an acc^t within the time aforesaid being lawfully thereto Cited that then the said Judge if he see just Cause may Issue forth process of Attachment against such adm^r to oblige him her or them as well to exhibit an Inventory or render acc^t as aforesaid as to answer for his her or their Contempt of such former process after the usuall Manner and in Case such adm^r shall not render such account or exhibit such Inventory untill two severall Attachments shall be returned to two severate Courts against such Administrat^r either that the adm^r shall have been Attached or is not found in the Country where they live It shall & may be lawfull for the said Judge to revoke the first letters of Administration to such administrat^r Comitted & shall grant Administration