

An Act, ascertaining the Gage and
 tare of tobacco hogsheads and to prevent
 Cropping Cutting and Defacing Tobacco Taken
 on board Ships by Vapels upon Freight and for
 Laying Impositions on tobacco for the hogshead
 for the Support of Government and for the Encourag-
 ing Settlements in this Province by ascertaining
 the manner of Paying his Lordships Alienation Fund
 and Quit rents for the Terms therein proposed and for
 taking of the three pence per hogshead formerly raised
 for the publick Charge.

Forasmuch as the Laws heretofore made for ascertaining the Gage of Tobacco
 hogsheads have in great Measures proved ineffectual either for want of laying
 sufficient penalties upon the offenders or of proper methods to inflict them
 but more especially as it seems to this present Generall Assembly by requiring
 a Compliance with a ^{such} gage as has been found by Experience to tend to the ruin
 of such traders as were strict observers of it the Generallity of our Tobacco being
 of so light and ^{such} Nature that it has been found wholly impracticable
 in a manner impossible to pack or prize so much of it a hogshead of the late
 Gage of thirty Inches in the diameter of the head as would suffice for the payment
 of freight and other Charges arising thereon the freighters of such small
 hogsheads having been frequently brought in debt by the smallness of the Quan-
 tity of tobacco contained therein to the great damage of the Tobacco trade parti-
 cularly of the fair traders therein which seems in a manner to have brought
 the latest of the aforementioned Laws in a Generall Disuse it being rather more
 mischievous to the freighters to be brought in debt by their strict observance of
 that Gage than to lose their Tobacco here for exceeding it for remedy whereof
 for the future Be it Enacted by the Right Honourable the Lord proprie-
 tary by and with the advice and consent of his Lordships Governor and upper
 and lower houses of Assembly and the Authority of the same that from and
 after the end of this present Session shall and may be Lawfull for any person
 or persons whatsoever suspecting discovering or knowing of any hogshead or
 hogsheads of tobacco that shall exceed forty eight Inches in the length of the
 stave or thirty two Inches in the Diameter of the head within the Croze or
 that shall exceed thirty seven Inches Diameter in the Bulge or in any accident
 or protuberance whatsoever (thirty six Inches Diameter in the bulge being supposed
 a competent Gage) to call to his assistance any Justice of the peace Sheriff
 (Coroner)