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An Act for preventing the Destroying of Boundaries or Bounded Trees and the bounding of trees or sitting up boundaries without Lawfull Authority

WHEREAS it appears to this present Generall Assembly that many abuses and Injuries have happened to many of the Inhabitants within this Province, because by Private persons taking upon themselves in a private Manner the bounding or the bounding of Trees whereon the bounds either of their Own Lands or any other adjacent Lands may have any Dependance, and also by the bounding of Trees at Random in the Woods, the Multitude of which, renders the true boundaries of Lands very precarious and uncertain and likewise by the cutting Down or Destroying of bounded trees either of or upon their Own Lands or any other for the remedy of which Courts for the future, Be it Enacted by the D. of Newcastle the Lord Proprietor by and with the advice and Consent of his Lordships Governour and the Upper and Lower house of Assembly of this Province and the authority of the same, That from and after the End of this present Session of Assembly it shall Not be Lawfull for any Person or persons whatsoever within this Province under any pretence whatsoever to Cut Down or otherwise destroy any boundary or bounded Trees either of his Own Lands or the Lands of any other Person whatsoever even altho such boundary or bounded trees should stand within the same Own Land so Cutting Down or Destroying the same, under the penalty of five thousand pounds of Lawfull Money for every offence, the one half to the Informer or to him or them that shall sue for the same the other half to the use of the free schools in the County where the offence is committed And be it further Enacted that if any Person or Persons whatsoever shall without Lawfull Authority either at Random or for their Own pleasure presume to bound any trees or trees in the Woods or upon their Own Lands or that shall bound any trees or trees or set up other boundaries for their Own or others Land, in violation of any Original boundary or bounded Trees that in any way decayed