

Act of Assembly passed in October, 1753.

An Act for amending the Staple of Tobacco, for preventing Frauds in his Majesty's Customs, and for the Limitation of Officers Fees.

I. **W**HEREAS it is thought convenient by this General Assembly, to have a Law for preventing the Exportation of bad, unsound, and trashy Tobacco, and to prevent the many Frauds in deceiving his Majesty of his Customs, and for Limitation of Officers Fees. Preamble.

II. *BE it therefore Enacted by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the Advice and Consent of his Lordship's Governor, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the Authority of the same,* That all Tobacco which shall be exported out of this Province, from and after the last Day of November, Seventeen hundred and fifty-three, shall be first brought to some or one of the public Warehouses herein after mentioned, and shall be there viewed and inspected in Manner as is hereinafter expressed, except such Tobacco as hath been, or shall be, inspected before the said last Day of November, under any Act of Assembly of this Province.

No Tobacco to be exported, 'til first brought to a public Warehouse.

III. *AND be it further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid,* That no Person shall put on board, or receive into any Ship, Sloop, Boat, or other Vessel, in order to be exported therein, any such Tobacco not packed in Hogsheads, Casks or Cases, upon any Pretence whatsoever; nor in any Hoghead, Cask or Case, to be in that, or any other Ship, Sloop, or Vessel, exported out of this Province, before the same shall have been viewed and inspected, according to the Directions of this Act (except as before excepted:) But that all such Tobacco, to be received or taken on board any Ship, Sloop, or other Vessel, and to be therein exported; or to be carried or put on board any other Ship, Sloop, or Vessel, for Exportation, as aforesaid; shall be received or taken on board at the several Warehouses for that Purpose herein after mentioned, or some or one of them, and at no other Place or Places whatsoever. And every Master, Mate, or Boatswain, which shall arrive in this Province, in order to lade Tobacco, during the Continuance of this Act, shall, before the said Ship or Vessel be permitted to take on board any such Tobacco, make Oath, or Affirmation, if a Quaker, before the Naval Officer of the District wherein such Ship or Vessel shall arrive, (which Oath the said Naval-Officer is hereby impowered and required to administer); "That they will not permit any such Tobacco to be taken on board their respective Ships or Vessels, except the same be packed in Hogheads, Casks or Cases, stamped by some Inspector, legally thereunto appointed:" Which Oath they shall subscribe in a Book, to be kept by the Naval Officer for that Purpose. And if any such Master shall cause any Person who is not really, and *bona fide*, Mate or Boatswain of the Ship, or Vessel, to come on Shore and take such Oath, he shall, for the said Offence, forfeit and pay Thirty Pounds Current Money: And if any Master or Commander of any Ship or Vessel, shall take on board, or suffer to be taken on board the Ship or Vessel whereof he is Master, any Tobacco brought from any other Place, than some or one of the public Warehouses herein after mentioned, or any Hoghead, Cask or Case of Tobacco, not stamped by some lawful Inspector, or shall suffer to be brought on board, any Tobacco, except in Hogheads, Casks or Cases, stamped as aforesaid, every such Master and Commander shall forfeit and pay Thirty Pounds Current Money for every Hoghead, Cask or Case of Tobacco, which shall not have been brought from one of the public Warehouses, or which shall not be stamped as aforesaid; and moreover, every such Hoghead, Cask or Case of Tobacco, shall be forfeited.

All Tobacco for Exportation to be taken on board at some public Warehouse, after the same is Inspected.

An Oath to be administered to Masters, Mates, and Boatswains of Vessels, before taking Tobacco on board.

Penalty in Case of Default.