

An ACT for the more effectual Preservation of the Breed of wild Deer.

Preamble.

WHEREAS it has been represented to this General Assembly, that the Species of Deer hath of late Years been very much lessened, for the Prevention whereof it is thought proper by this General Assembly to pass an Act, restraining all Persons whatsoever from shooting or otherwise destroying them for a limited Time:

Penalty on Persons killing Deer during Three Years;

II. Be it therefore enacted, by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the Advice and Consent of his Governor, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the Authority of the same, That it shall not be lawful for any Person or Persons whatsoever within this Province (the Indians in Amity with us excepted) from and after the End of this Session of Assembly, during the Term of Three Years, to kill any Deer, under the Penalty of Ten Pounds Current Money for every Deer so killed, to be recovered in the County Court where the said Offence shall be committed, by Indictment or Information, one Half of which said Sum of Ten Pounds shall be applied to the Use of the County School where such Offence shall be committed, and the other Half to be received by the Person who shall make Information of the said Offence.

How to be recovered and applied.

Persons in whose Hands Deers Flesh is found to be deemed the Killers.

III. And be it further enacted, That any Person or Persons whatsoever, in whose Hands or Custody any Deers Flesh shall be found, that shall appear to have been killed on or before the End of the said Three Years, shall be deemed, taken, and adjudged, the Killer of such Deer, and liable to the Penalty aforesaid, unless such Person shall make it appear who it was that really killed the same; or from whom such Person or Persons thereof possessed received the same.

Inhabitants of this Province not to purchase dead Deer of Indians.

IV. And be it further enacted, That it is the true Intent and Meaning of this Act, that the Liberty given to the Indians aforesaid shall extend only to the killing of Deer for their private Use; and not for Sale; and that it shall not be lawful for any Inhabitant within this Province, under the Penalty aforesaid, to be recovered as aforesaid, for the Uses aforesaid, to purchase any dead Deer, or any Part thereof, of any Indian or Indians, within the Time prohibited by this Act to kill Deer.

Nor to kill Deer during Three Years, nor afterwards except in September and October.

V. And be it further enacted, That no Person or Persons whatsoever shall shoot, or otherwise destroy, any Deer, after the End of this present Session of Assembly, for and during the Term of Three Years; and that no Person or Persons whatsoever, after the Expiration of the said Three Years, shall shoot, kill, or destroy, any Deer during the Continuance of this Act, except in the Months of September and October yearly.

Justices of County Courts to give this Act in Charge to their Grand Juries, &c.

VI. And be it further enacted, That the Justices of the several County Courts shall, and they are hereby required, to give this Act in Charge to their several Grand Juries, whose Duty it shall be to present all Persons whatsoever who shall have made a Breach of this Act.

Penalty on Persons suffering their Slaves to kill Deer.

VII. And be it further enacted, That if any Master or Mistress, Dame, or Overseer, shall suffer any Slave or Slaves, under their Care and Management, to hunt, kill, or destroy, any Deer, contrary to the Tenor of this Act, the said Master, Mistress, Dame, or Overseer, so offending,