

Brought from the House of Burgesses by myself and eleven other members of the
House the following message

The Messengers desire to know whether they may wait for an answer who are told that
an answer shall be given them presently and so they withdrew

By the House of Burgesses July the 9th 1696

We have with all utmost care and scrutiny considered the Clause in the Law for
Religion and as we are earnestly desirous to Propagate the same out of the Service of our
Duty to God Loyalty to his most Excellent Majesty and imitation of his Excellency's
most noble and worthy Example so we cannot enough not altogether to be surpris'd
ful of the Rights and Liberties of ourselves and those we represent

We are earnestly desirous rightly to understand his Excellency and to be rightly
understood by him and therefore have endeavoured to find out an Accommodation
of Words that may answer all intents by putting in the words Law and Statutes
of England instead of the words Fundamental Laws of England

We are not in the least doubtful of our Liberties or Rights being infringed by our Gra-
cious Sovereign or our noble and worthy Governor and do sincerely acknowledge that
his Excellency governs by the fairest measures and free Administration of the Law
that we are Capable of understanding and therefore have not any apprehension of
his invading our Rights and Privileges. We firmly believe ourselves and those we
represent to be within the benefit of all Liberties and Privileges of English freeborn
Subjects being Granted to this Province by his Majesty's Royal Predecessor Charles the
First King of England and usually used in the Government of this Province

We believe our sacred Sovereign has posed his Royal Person to hazard for Preservation
and maintenance of the Rights and Liberties of those dominions to which we belong
and therein has been perpetually protected by an immediate Finger of God against all
the Attempts of his Enemies to the contrary

And therefore as it has been always usual for Parliaments under Gracious Good Kings
to have reiterated and confirmed to them their ancient Rights and Liberties both in
Church and State which we find by experience they have frequently prayed for and
Obtained we cannot distrust but his Majesty will graciously conform to us in
our humble Motion and therefore we humbly offer these Reasons why that Clause
may be continued in the Law

1 We find that King Henry in his Grant of the Great Charter annexed the Privileges
and Liberties of the Church and State together by Comprising them in one Grant the in-
several Paragraphs or Chapters therefore we hope his sacred Majesty will accept of our
imitation thereof and cannot but believe us to be unmindful of ourselves if omitted by us

2 We find the same again Joyned in one Charter to the Lord Baltimore for the seating
this Province viz the Propagation of the Church and Liberty of the Subject declared in the
same Charter

3 We find that when his Majesty was pleased to take the Government of this Province
into his Hands the first Law that was made here was declaratory of the Rights and
Liberties of the Church and the Subject also contained in one and the same Act

And if we after all these and many more Examples of the like nature which in this
Function have not time to collect we should as we earnestly endeavour to propagate &
maintain our duty to God and the King and forget those we represent we must believe
we are wanting to ourselves since they have not in any thing we have seen been yet
separated we humbly desire they may be Joyned and not omitted in this and therefore
we humbly desire that these our Reasons may be taken into Consideration and we
pray to God to bless us and our Potency as our Consciences witness our Integrity in this
matter

Signed by Order W. B. Braden (Chairman)