

Sir Thomas Lawrence Baronet Secretary Col<sup>o</sup> Francis Murchison  
Col<sup>o</sup> Henry Jones Col<sup>o</sup> Nicholas Brouncker Col<sup>o</sup> John Lewis

The Bills yesterday read together with the proposals upon the last count were delivered into the House by the Clerks of this Board

Brought from the House of Delegates by Major Dent and Major Bonds the following Papers and Bills viz

A Report from the Committee of Laws in relation to the proposals for a new modelling the militia read as following viz

Referred to the Committee to Consider the old Law for regulating the militia and Counsel of his Excellency's proposals for the new modelling the militia of this Province

The Committee having seriously and deliberately considered the old Law and debated the several proposals of his Excellency to be enacted into a new Law do find that the said Proposals tend much to the well regulating of the militia as likewise the ease of the poorer Sort of Inhabitants but forasmuch as there is now a great disturbance of some disturbance with the Indians do not think it a proper time to set a Law wholly aside that the Inhabitants as likewise considering that several of the new proposals if enacted into a Law yet it is impossible to put the same in Execution this twelve month at least therefore this Committee are of Opinion that a Copy of the said Proposals be drawn out for every County of this Province to the end that the Inhabitants of each County may consider of the same and give it to their delegates in charge the next Assembly it being not usual for Parliaments or Assemblies to enact Laws altogether new without first acquainting the People therewith and having their approbation

Signed by Order Hen: Loftis Clk Committee

The said Report was subscribed as follows viz  
June the 5<sup>th</sup> 1697 By the House of Delegates The House concurred with the Report of the Committee  
W Bladen Clk

Ordered that an Answer to the same be drawn up which was done as following viz

By his Excellency the Governor and Council June the 5<sup>th</sup> 1697

The Committee of Laws report to the House in relation to the proposals made to them and this Board for the better regulating the militia together with the Houses Concurrence with the said Report was received and here read to which his Excellency does say that he does not approve of the same but that the House may consider to have such a Law drawn by passed now according to the proposal and a twelve months time requiring for modelling and fitting themselves until which time the old Law may be left to stand in force otherwise he is pleased to declare that he must see the old Law put in due execution and does intend God willing to take a view of the militia of each respective County this summer and carry with him the Sheriff and Clerk of the Indictments together with a Copy of the said Law in one hand in order to put the same in Execution against every Person that shall not be provided according to that Act and a Copy of the proposals in another hand that the People may see how they are dealt withal whether an easier method has been proposed to the House these two Assemblies but has been rejected

The same was sent by the honorable Sir Thomas Lawrence and Col<sup>o</sup> Murchison who return and say they delivered the same

A Bill for Naturalization of Stephen Francis &c being read was rejected as not being a legal one according to the late Act of Parliament for preventing Fraud

It being moved in the House that the Lords &c should be addressed for a separate Convoij for the Shipping of this Province Resolved that it will not be convenient to address the Lords for such Convoij in regard that the Virginia Fleet have quitted dispatch their orders and thereby forestall our market

A Bill Ascertaining how and when Execution shall be Granted and for publick Officers fees read first time to which it is proposed that it be inserted that the Clerks be obliged to transcribe every days minutes of their proceedings to be fair read over next morning and the record of the whole Proceedings of that Court to be read over the first day of the next Court after