

The bill Directing of Manner of Elections to be Read a Second time by Special Order of the House; and passed to Engrossment.

The Committee of Privileges and Elections come in and present to the consideration of this House the following paper (viz)

October 4th 5th 1683. Lower House of Assembly.

This House having considered of a Vote of the upper House made the last Session of Assembly of Seventh of November 1682, and sent Yesterday to this House as aise his Lords Instrument; under of great Seal therewith sent. Cannot concur in Opinion with the upper House therein for these Reasons. For that of best and truest foundation whereon of Peace of the Province depends is by making good and wholesome Lawes for the well government thereof which Lawes cannot be made without the Consent of the freemen of this Province by their Deputyes, Delegates or Representatives in General Assembly assembled. And since hitherto the forme of assembling their Deputyes & Delegates hath been altogether diverse, and Meantime this House conceives that more better means can be used in this Province for the settling the mind of the freemen and reducing a matter of this Moment to a Certainty for the future then to establish the Manner of Electing and Summoning of Burgesses, Delegates and Representatives to serve in succeeding Sessions of Assembly an Act to be assented to by his Lordsh: and both Houses of Assembly their Consent in Assembly, may not be obtained or Ref. all due Honor and regards ought to be had to his

Let this House conceive that this present Ordinance his Heires and Successors, but that the Manner of Electing and Summoning Burgesses therein prescribed may be altered and wills and pleasures and thereby the same Ordinance recited it is said - (as to the Sheriffs) you shall give authority to each of them, (meaning the Delegates &c) by two severall Indentures &c: which seems to make of power to Consent &c: in the Delegates. Burgesses &c: derivative from the Sheriffs, whereas their power &c and Consent in Assembly is only from the freemen by their Delegates (made by writtes of such his Lordsh: with)

It is said in the Ordinance in case any of the persons soe Elected dye or goe out of the Province or be otherwise Disabled to sitt and vote &c: Upon notice given from the Commissioners of the place or the Sheriffe or of summing Deputye, or Delegate, to y^e Secretary or other officer &c: new writtes shall issue for y^e supplying of y^e vacancy of such person, Dead, gone out of the Province or otherwise Disabled to sitt or vote &c:

This House conceives in the first place, that such notice may be neglected or if given not sufficient to disable such persones not Dead from being and continuing a Member of Assembly (none being more proper Judges of the Capacity of such Member then the House its selfe)

Besides as y^e Commerce of our Province depends much upon a daily Correspondency with our Neighbours of Virginia, New Yorke, Pennsylvania