

Acts and Orders of Assembly

assented unto enacted and made at a general Session of the said Assembly held at Saint Marys on the One and twentieth day of April Anno Domini 1649 as followeth viz

Confirmed by
the Lord
Proprietary by
an Instrument
under his hand &
Seal dated 26
August 1650
Philalbert

An Act concerning Religion

Forasmuch as in a well governed and Christian Commonwealth matters concerning Religion & the honour of God ought in the first place to be taken into serious Consideration and endeavoured to be settled

Be it therefore Ordered and Enacted by the right honble Cacilius Lord Baron of Baltimore Absolute Lord and Proprietary of this Province with the advice and Consent of the General Assembly that whatsoever Person or Persons within this Province and the Islands thereto Belonging shall from henceforth Blaspheme God that is Curse him or deny our Saviour Jesus Christ to be the Son of God or shall deny the body Divinity the Justice Son and Holy Ghost or the Godhead of any of the said three Persons of the Trinity or the unity of the Godhead or shall use or utter any reproachful speeches words or Language concerning the said holy Trinity or any of the said three Persons thereof shall be punished with death & Confiscation or forfeiture of all his or her lands and Goods to the Lord Proprietary and his heirs and be it also Enacted by the Authority and with the advice and assent aforesaid that whatsoever Person or Persons

shall from henceforth use or utter any Reproachful Words
 or speeches concerning the blessed Virgin Mary the Mother
 of Our Saviour or the holy Apostles and Evangelists or any
 of them shall in such Case for the first Offence forfeit to
 the said Lord Proprietary and his heirs Lords and Repre-
 sentatives of this Province the sum of five Pound Sterling or
 the Value thereof to be levied upon the Goods and Chattels
 of every such Person or Offending but in case such Offen-
 der or Offenders shall not then have Goods and Chattels
 sufficient for the satisfying of such forfeiture or that
 the same be not speedily satisfied that then such Offen-
 der or Offenders shall be publicly whipt and be impris-
 oned during the Pleasure of the Lord Proprietary or the
 Lieutenant or chief Governour of this Province for the time
 being and that every such Offender or Offenders for every
 second Offence shall forfeit ten Pound Sterling or the
 Value thereof to be levied as aforesaid or in Case such Offen-
 der or Offenders shall not then have Goods and Chattels
 sufficient for the satisfying of such forfeiture then to
 be publicly and severely whipt and imprisoned as be-
 fore is Expressed and that every Person or Persons before
 mentioned offending herein the third time shall for such
 third Offence forfeit all his lands and Goods and be for-
 ever Banished and expelled out of this Province and
 be it also further enacted by the same authority advise
 and Consent that whatsoever Person or Persons shall
 from henceforth upon any occasion of offence or other-
 wise in a reproachful manner or way declare call or
 Denominate any Person or Persons whatsoever inhabi-
 ting Residing trafficking trading or Comencing in in

This Province or within any the Ports Harbours
 Creeks or Havens to the same belonging an Heretic,
 Schismatick, Idolator, Puritan, Independent Presbyterian
 Antinomian, Banonist, Roundhead, Separated, Popish
 Priest, Jesuit, Jesuited, Papist, Sultan, Caberist, Anabap-
 tist, Brownist or any other name or kin in a reproach-
 ful manner relating to matter of Religion shall for every
 such Offence forfeit and Lose the sum of ten shillings
 Sterling or the Value thereof to be Levied on the Goods
 and Chattels of every such Offender and Offenders the
 One half thereof to be forfeited and paid unto the Person
 and Persons of whom such reproachful words are and
 shall be spoken or uttered and the other half thereof
 to the Lord Proprietary and his heirs, Lords and Pro-
 prietarys of this Province but if such Person or Persons
 who shall at any time utter or speak any such re-
 proachful words or language shall not have Goods &
 Chattels sufficient and Lye within this Province
 to be taken to satisfy the Penalty aforesaid or that the
 same be not otherwise speedily satisfied that then the
 Person or Persons so Offending shall be publicly whipt
 and shall suffer imprisonment without Bail or main-
 prise until he she or they respectively shall satisfy the
 Party so Offended or Grieved by such reproachful Lan-
 guage by asking him or her respectively forgiveness pub-
 licly for such his Offence before the Magistrate or chief
 Officer or Officers of the Town or Place where the Offence
 shall be Given and to do further likewise or acted by
 the Authority and Consent aforesaid that every Per-
 son and Persons within this Province that shall at

any time hereafter profane the Sabbath or Lords Day
 Called Sunday by frequent swearing drunkenness or
 by any unwill or disorderly recreation or by musing
 on that day when absolute necessity doth not require it
 shall for every such first Offence forfeit 2. 6. Shilling
 or the Value thereof and for the second Offence 5. Shilling
 or the Value thereof and for the third Offence and so for
 every time he shall Offend in like manner afterwards
 10. Shilling or the Value thereof and for the second Offence
 Five Offenders shall not have sufficient Goods or Chattels
 within this Province to satisfy any of the said Penalties
 respectively hereby imposed for profaning the Sabbath
 or Lords day called Sunday as aforesaid that in every
 such Case the Party so Offending shall for the first
 and second Offence in that kind be imprisoned till
 he or she shall publicly in open Court before the chief
 Commander Judge or Magistrate of that County Town
 or Precinct where such Offence shall be committed acknow-
 ledged the scandall and Offence he hath in that respect
 Given against God and the Good and Civil Government
 of this Province and for the third Offence and for every
 time after shall also be publicly whipt and whereas
 the enforcing of the Conscience in matters of Religion hath
 frequently fallen out to be of dangerous Consequence
 in those Commonwealths where it hath been practised
 and for the more quiet and peaceable Government of this
 Province and the better to preserve mutual Love and
 Unity amongst the Inhabitants thereof Be it therefore
 also by the Lord Proprietary with the advice & Consent

of this Assembly Ordained and enacted except as in this
 present Act is before declared and set forth that no Person
 or Persons whatsoever within this Province or the Islands
 Ports Harbours Creeks or Havens thereunto belonging to
 believe in Jesus Christ shall from henceforth be any way
 troubled molested or discourtenanced for or in respect of his
 or her Religion nor in the free exercise thereof within this
 Province or the Islands thereunto belonging nor any way
 Compelled to the Belief or exercise of any other Religion
 against his or her consent so as they be not unfaithful
 to the Lord Proprietary or molest or Conspire against
 the Civil Government established or to be established in
 this Province under him or his heirs and that all and
 every Person and Persons that shall presume Contrary
 to this Act and the true intent and meaning thereof
 directly or indirectly either in Person or Estate wilfully
 to wrong disturb trouble or molest any Person whatsoever
 within this Province professing to believe in Jesus Christ
 for or in respect of his or her Religion or the free Exercise
 thereof within this Province other then is provided for
 in this Act that such Person or Persons so offending shall
 be Compelled to pay treble damages to the party so wrong
 ed or molested and for every such Offense shall forfeit
 20 Sterling in money or the value thereof half thereof
 for the use of the Lord Proprietary and his heirs Lords
 and Proprietaries of this Province and the other half
 for the use of the Party so wronged or molested as aforesaid
 and if the Party so Offending as aforesaid shall Refuse
 or be unable to recompence the Party so grieved or to satisfy
 such fine or forfeiture then such Offender shall be severely

by publick whipping and imprisonment during the Pleasure of the Lord Proprietary or his Lieutenant or other Governor of this Province for the time being without Bail or Mainprize and be it also further enacted by the Authority and Consent aforesaid that the Sheriff or other Officer or Officers to be from time to time authorized and appointed for that purpose of the County Town or Precinct where Every particular Offence in this present Act contained shall happen at any time to be Committed and whereupon there is hereby a Forfeiture fine or penalty imposed shall from time to time distrain and seize the Goods and estate of every such Person so offending as aforesaid against this present Act or any part thereof and sell the same or any Part thereof for the full Satisfaction of such Forfeiture fine or Penalty as aforesaid Restoring unto the Party so Offending the Remainder or Overplus of the said Goods or estate After such a satisfaction so made as aforesaid

The Freemen have assented Tho Hallon
Enacted by the Governor William Stone

© An Act for punishment of such as shall Counterfeit the Lord Proprietary or his heirs Lords and Propertys of this Province Great seal of this Province

Be it enacted by the Lord Proprietary of this Province by and with the consent of this Assembly that what Person or Persons soever shall presume to Counterfeit the Great Seal of this Province or the sign manual or Paper Seal or Arms of the Lord Proprietary of this