

At the General Assembly of the Province of Nova Scotia, begun and holden at Halifax, on the Sixth Day of June, 1770, in the Tenth Year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lord George the Third, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c. and there continued by several Prorogations until the Twelfth day of October, 1773, in the Thirteenth Year of His said Majesty's Reign, being the Fifth General-Assembly convened in the said Province.

13 George III – Chapter 9 (Session 2)

An Act in Addition to an Act, made in the Fifth Year of His present Majesty's Reign, intituled, "An Act for Summary Trial of Actions."

Whereas the summary trial of certain causes has been found of great utility, and that the enlarging the sum to be tried in a summary way by the courts of justice, may greatly contribute to the ease of his Majesty's subjects in this Province:

I. Be it enacted by the Governor, council and assembly, That the justices of the supreme court and inferior courts of common pleas within this province, be, and they are hereby impowered in all causes of action brought before them, the sum total whereof shall not exceed twenty pounds, to proceed in like manner as has been accustomed in causes not exceeding ten pounds, and subject to a writ of error to be brought from the inferior courts of common pleas to the supreme court when the judgment shall exceed five pounds.

II. Provided always, that when on the examination of the witnesses the matters of fact may appear doubtful, or that either of the parties shall desire it, the court shall and may order a jury to try the same.

III. And be it further enacted, that any one of the justices of the supreme court or inferior court of common pleas within this province, is hereby impowered in all causes of action brought before him, where the debt does not exceed twenty pounds, to take the voluntary confession of the debtor for the sum demanded by the creditor as agreed between the debtor and creditor and to proceed therein in manner, as has been hitherto practiced in debts not exceeding ten pounds, and subject to the like costs as have been heretofore paid in such cases.