

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 Twentieth Day of October, Anno Domini 1775, in the Fifteenth Year of his said Majesty's Reign, being the Second Session of the Fifth General Assembly convened in the said Province.

15 George III – Chapter 6 (Session 2)

An Act for the ready Admission of such of his Majesty's Subjects in the Colonies on the Continent, who may be induced to take Refuge in the Province, from the Anarchy and Confusion there, and for securing the Peace, and preserving the Loyalty and Obedience of the Inhabitants of this Province.

Whereas there is at this time a most daring and unnatural rebellion, subsisting in the neighbouring provinces against his sacred Majesty and his Government, and as many of his Majesty's subjects of dutiful and loyal deportment, and desirous of withdrawing themselves from such confusion and unnatural rebellion, and seeking an asylum in this province.

I. Be it enacted, by the Governor, Council and Assembly, that every person above the age of sixteen years, who have, or shall hereafter come into any part of this Province, from any part of the continent of North America, with an intent to dwell or reside within this Province, or to carry on any trade or business, shall take the oaths of allegiance and supremacy and declaration required to be taken and subscribed by act of Parliament.

II. And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that every person taking the oaths and subscribing the declaration aforesaid, shall to all intents and purposes be esteemed and reputed to be an inhabitant of this Province, and intitled to all the privileges and immunities thereof.

III. And be it also enacted, that the Governor, Lieutenant Governor or Commander in Chief for the time being, or any one of his Majesty's council, or any one of his Majesty's Justices of either court, or any one of his Majesty's Justices for any county, are hereby authorised and impowered to administer the said oaths, to any person coming into this province, and they are hereby further required to certify into the secretary's office, the names of the persons so taking the oaths, and signing the declaration aforesaid, together with the trade, business, employment or occupation of such person within sixty days after taking the same there to remain on record, for the benefit of the person so taking it.

IV. And whereas many evil designing persons have, and may hereafter come into this province with an intent to corrupt the minds of his Majesty's liege subjects, and carry on the designs of his Majesty's rebellious subjects aforesaid, be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid that if any person coming from any of the Provinces now in rebellion against his Majesty and government, into this province, and shall not within the space of five days after

his arrival, present himself to some one of the magistrates hereby lawfully authorized to administer the said oaths, and before him to take the same and subscribe the declaration aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful for any of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace to summon and bring such person before him and require his taking and subscribing the oaths and declarations aforesaid, and upon refusal thereof, to order and direct such person so refusing, to find two good and sufficient sureties, for his good behaviour during his residence in the province, and upon his refusal, to commit such person to any of his Majesty's goals till he shall take and subscribe the said oaths and declaration or find security as aforesaid.

V. And be it also enacted, that if any person living and residing within this his Majesty's province, shall at any time hereafter hold any traitorous correspondence with any persons in the aforesaid colonies, now associated in arms against his Majesty's government, either by letter, message, or in any other criminal and traitorous manner, he or she being thereof convicted, agreeable to the statutes and laws of Great Britain, shall suffer such pains and penalties, as in such cases is provided against persons traitorously corresponding with his Majesty's enemies.