

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 Fifteenth day of June, Anno Domini 1776, in the Sixteenth Year of his said Majesty's Reign, being the Fifth General Assembly convened in the said Province.

16 George III – Chapter 1

An Act in Addition to the several Acts, made by the General Assembly of this Province, to enable the several Townships within the same to maintain their Poor.

Whereas the inhabitants of the township of Halifax, have neglected to meet at the times by law directed to vote money for the support of the poor of said township, which has made it necessary for the Justices at the General Sessions of the Peace to amerce the said township, in such sums as to them appeared requisited for the purpose. And whereas doubts have arisen as to the number of assessors to be appointed by the Justices for assessing the said sums so amerced, or which it may be expedient hereafter to amerce, on any township neglecting to meet and make provision for their poor as aforesaid.

I. Be it enacted by the Lieutenant-Governor, Council and Assembly, that in all cases where the inhabitants of the township of Halifax, or of any other township in the Province, shall neglect to meet and vote such sums as may be necessary to be raised for the support of their poor. The Justices at their Special Sessions of the Peace, shall and may amerce such township in such sum or sums of money, as they shall think requisite for that purpose. And they shall also at such sessions appoint five freeholders (three or more of which to be a quorum) to assess the sums so amerced on the inhabitants, which assessment so made shall be affixed in some public place of such township, at least three days before the end of the same sessions, that any of the inhabitants so assessed, may, if they see cause, appeal therefrom, and that the Justices may determine thereon the same sessions.

II. And be it also enacted, that in case the assessors appointed by the Justices as aforesaid shall neglect or refuse to meet and make the said assessment within ten days after their appointment or in case the collector or collectors appointed to collect the same neglect their duty therein. He or they shall be subject to a fine of five pounds for the use of the poor of such township, which shall on failure of payment be levied on complaint of the overseers of the poor before two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, by warrant of distress and sale of the offenders goods and chattels, and others shall by the said Justices be appointed in their stead.