

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 Sixth day of June, Anno Domini 1777, in the Seventeenth Year of his said Majesty's Reign, being the Fifth General Assembly convened in the said Province.

17 George III – Chapter 13

An Act for the more effectually securing Prisoners committed for Crimes against his Majesty and Government, and for the Tryal of such offenders.

Whereas several of the goals erected in the out counties are very insufficient for the safe keeping and securing criminal offenders.

I. Be it enacted, by the Lieutenant-Governor, Council, and Assembly, that every Justice of Peace, authorized to examine and to commit offenders within this province, if they see cause to commit any offender for treason or suspicion thereof, or for any high crimes and misdemeanors committed against his Majesty or his government, shall in case the goal of the county, from whence such offender shall be so committed, be insufficient, cause such offender to be conveyed to his Majesty's goal in Halifax, within the county of Halifax, and the Provost Marshall of the said province, or keeper of his Majesty's goal in Halifax, are hereby required and commanded to receive all such offenders, them safe keep, till they shall otherwise be delivered by due course of law.

II. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that when and as soon as the Supreme Court, Court of Assize and General Goal Delivery shall be empowered to proceed to the trial of offenders for any of the crimes aforesaid, they are hereby empower'd to hear, try and determine, all such offences at his Majesty's Supreme Court to be held at Halifax; in and for the said county, by a jury of the said county, any law, usage or custom, to the contrary notwithstanding.

III. Provided always, and be it further enacted, that this Act and every clause and article therein contained shall be of force for and during the present rebellion in America and no longer.