

*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 October, 1783, in the Twenty Third Year of his said Majesty's Reign, being the Fifth General Assembly convened in the said Province.*

23 George III – Chapter 12

**An Act for Licensing Butchers, and preventing them in future from being guilty of Extortion, and other Misbehavior.**

Whereas many and great injuries have arisen to the inhabitants of this province, by the butchers of the town of Halifax, combining together, and keeping up meat at exorbitant, high prices, for remedy whereof.

I. Be it enacted by the Governor, Council and Assembly, that the justices of the peace for the county of Halifax, in their general or special sessions of the peace, held at Halifax, shall and may grant Licenses to all persons, who shall in future follow the trade or occupation of butches within the town or county of Halifax, and also to all persons who shall attend as assistants in, and about the slaughter houses of said town or county, for which license such butcher so applying for the same, shall pay the sum of forty shillings annually, to be applied to the repairing of the market house, and the assistants shall receive their licenses gratis.

II. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that if any person or persons whatsoever, shall on any pretence exercise or follow the trade or occupation of a butcher or assistant within the said town or county of Halifax, without a license first had and obtained from said Justices annually, or after such License shall be suspended as herein after directed, that then, and in such case, such butcher or assistant so acting without license, or after his license shall be suspended or expired, shall forfeit and pay for each and every offence; the butcher the sum of fifty pounds, and the assistant a sum not exceeding three pounds to be recovered by complaint, before any three of His Majesty's justices of the peace for the said county of Halifax; and on conviction to be levied by execution under the hand and seal of two of the said justices, on the goods, chattels, or person of the offenders, half of which said penalty of fifty pounds, or of three pounds shall be paid to the informer, and the other half shall be applied for the repair of the market house.

III. And be it further enacted, that it shall and may be lawful for the clerks of the market at all times to inspect the market house, and slaughter houses, and other places, where meat is, or may be exposed to sale, and to see the several laws, for regulating the market carried into execution, and to condemn and forfeit, according to law, all blown or unwholesome meat, that shall be exposed to sale; and if it shall appear to one or both the clerks of the market, that the licensed butchers and assistants, or any of them, shall attempt to sell their meat in the market, or wherever it may be exposed to sale, in a filthy dress, or shall neglect

to keep his or their stall or stalls sweet and clean, or shall behave with indecency or irregularity in said market, or places of sale or slaughter houses, or shall insult countrymen vending the produce of their farms, or getting their cattle slaughtered in the public slaughter houses, or shall be guilty of any species of extortion or unfair dealing, or shall hock, maim or otherwise cruelly treat the beast or animal they have for slaughter, that then, and in such case, it shall be lawful for two or more justices of the peace, on complaint of such clerk or clerks, to suspend the license of such butcher or assistant, and at the same time to file with the clerk of the peace at Halifax, a paper under the hand and seal of such justices, setting forth therein, the reason or reasons for suspending such butcher or assistants license; and if such butcher or assistant shall think himself aggrieved by such decision of said justices, it shall and may be lawful for the justices of the peace for said county in their sessions to grant such butcher or assistants a re-hearing, and if it shall appear to the said justices on trial by jury before them, that such butcher or assistant has been unjustly dealt with, they may direct a new license to be granted to said butcher or assistant, and if it shall appear otherwise to the said justices, they shall confirm the judgment of the said justices, and award reasonable costs to be recovered from the party applying for a hearing.

IV. And be it also enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that if after the publication of this act any person licensed to follow the trade or occupation of a butcher within the said town and county of Halifax, shall sell or vend the carcasses of any ox, cow, bull, steer, heifer, sheep, lamb, calf, or hogg, or any part thereof for a greater price, than one half penny per pound more, than such butcher shall have given to the countryman, or person from whom he shall have bought such ox, cow, bull, steer, heiffer, or hogg or any part thereof, that then, and on conviction of such butcher before his Majesty's court of general quarter or special sessions of the peace, he shall forfeit and pay, the sum of twenty pounds, to be recovered by information, to be filed in the said court of general quarter or special sessions of the peace, which penalty shall be levied by execution, one half thereof to be paid to the informer, and the other half to be applied to repairs of the market house aforesaid.

V. And be it further enacted, that if any person or persons whatsoever, shall combine together by any sham sale, or otherwise, to evade the regulations herein before prescribed, either of such persons, shall on conviction in his Majesty's court of general or special sessions of the peace, forfeit and pay each the sum of fifty pounds, to be levied and disposed of as herein before directed.

VI. Provided nevertheless, that nothing in this act shall extend, or be construed to extend, to prevent any countryman or transcient [transient] persons from vending their meat without license.

VII. And be it also further enacted, that for the future the market house shall be kept open from sun rise to sun set, any law, usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

VIII. And be it further enacted, that all butchers, countrymen or transcient people may from the passing of this act, expose their meat to sale in the market house during the time

abovementioned, and at their own houses or places of abode at all times (Sundays excepted.)

IX. And be it also enacted, that this act shall be, and remain in force for two years, from the end of this session of the general assembly.