

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 13

An Act for regulating Inns, and Taverns on all the Public Roads throughout this Province, and establishing the Prices of Entertainment for Travellers and their Horses.

Whereas many and great Inconveniencies arise from the keepers of inns and taverns in this province, extorting exorbitant prices from travellers for the entertainment of themselves and horses, for remedy whereof.

I. Be it enacted by the Governor, Council and House of Assembly, that all innholders, tavernkeepers, and common victuallers, keeping houses of entertainment on the public roads throughout this province, shall at all times be furnished with suitable and comfortable provisions, and lodgings for the refreshment and entertainment of travellers and strangers, and sufficient stable room, hay and provender for horses, on pain of being deprived of their licenses, and paying a fine of twenty shillings, to be recovered upon complaint being made, before one justice of the peace for the county, where such inn or tavern shall be kept, and if it shall appear to such justice, that the person complained of was negligent in keeping his inn or tavern supplied with the foregoing articles (reasonable allowance being made for the local situation of such inn or tavern,) that it shall, and may be lawful, for the said justice to sign and seal an execution, directed to the proper officer, to levy the said penalty of twenty shillings, on the goods and chattles of the person complained of, and for want thereof, to commit his person to the county goal, and at the same time, it shall and may be lawful, for any three justices of the peace for the said county, on complaint being made before them, and on making allowance as aforesaid, to direct a writing to the clerk of the licences, to recall the licence of such person, as shall be so convicted before them of neglect, in keeping his inn, or tavern supplied as aforesaid.

II. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that it shall and may be lawful, for the justices of the peace at the first general quarter sessions of the peace, that shall be held after the publication of this act and afterwards at such general quarter sessions of the peace, as are held in the fall of the year in any town or district within this province in each county, to regulate the prices of entertainment for travellers, and their horses, at the several inns and taverns within their county, and to make a table thereof, in the following order, setting reasonable prices thereto.

For one man or woman's lodging in a comfortable bed
A servant's Lodging

Stabling and hay for a horse per night
Oats per quart
Breakfast for man or woman, of bread, butter and tea, or coffee, or chocolate with loaf sugar
A servant's breakfast
A dinner for a man, or woman of good wholesome meat with bread and vegetables
A servant's dinner
A supper for a man or woman of good wholesome meat with bread and vegetables
A servant's supper
For tea or coffee in the afternoon, for man or woman with bread, butter and loaf sugar
Man or woman's breakfast or supper on bread and milk
Sufficient hay to bait one horse, while his master breakfast, or dines
Pasture for a horse one night

III. And if any innholder or tavernkeeper in any county within this province, shall neglect in twenty four hours after such regulation shall be made, to apply to the clerk of the peace, and obtain a copy under his hand of such regulations, which every clerk of the peace is bound on demand to give, and to charge no more than the sum of one shilling, and six pence for the same, and if such tavern-keeper or innholder shall neglect to keep such regulations, with the alterations that shall in future be made therein, constantly posted up in the most conspicuous part of his house, such innholder or tavern-keeper, shall forfeit the sum of ten shillings with costs for every neglect of the same, to be recovered by any person whatsoever, on complaint before any single justice of the peace for the county, where such tavernkeeper lives.

IV. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that if the justices of the peace, shall neglect to make, and establish the said regulations at the times, and in the manner beforementioned, such justices as shall be resident in the county at the time such regulations should be made, shall be liable to forfeit on every complaint that shall be made, the sum of ten pounds each, the same to be recovered by any person or persons whatsoever, on complaint being made, in his Majesty's supreme court at their sittings in any part of this province; and if any innholder or tavernkeeper within this province, shall ask, demand, or receive (for any species of entertainment, enumerated in the said regulation) from any traveller, any larger sum or sums, than what is allowed thereby, such tavernkeeper or innholder, shall forfeit the sum of forty shillings, for every offence, the same to be recovered on the complaint of any person whatsoever, before any two of His Majesty's justices of the peace, for the county, where such tavernkeeper shall live, to be levied by execution on the person or goods of the offender, one half to go to the informer, and the other half to the poor of the town, where such tavernkeeper shall live.

V. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that this act shall continue, and be in force for two years, to be computed from the end of the present session of assembly.