

*At the General Assembly of the Province of Nova Scotia, begun and holden at Halifax, on Monday, the Second Day of October, 1758, and in the 32<sup>nd</sup> year of His Majesty's Reign.*

32 George II – Chapter 21

**An Act relating to the Assize of Breads and for Ascertaining the Standard of Weights and Measures.**

Whereas great frauds are daily committed in this Province, because no standard for weights and measures, or assize of bread, have hitherto been established,

Be it therefore enacted by His Excellency the Governor, Council, and Assembly, and by the authority of the same it is hereby enacted, that all weights and measures used in this Province, shall be according to the standard of the exchequer of England: And that the treasurer of the Province, as soon as may be, procure a sett of measures, long, liquid, and dry, and a sett of brass weights and scales, and that until such weights and measures shall arrive, the weights at His Majesty's ordnance store shall be the standard. And the clerks of the market for each town, shall procure therefrom, a sett of weights according to such standard, which shall remain with them as assay weights, and shall be marked with the Letters GII: R:

And be it further enacted, that every inhabitant of each town respectively, making use of weights and measures in the sale of any commodity shall, in one week after publick notice given by such clerks respectively, bring or cause to be brought, their weights and measures to be assayed, for each of which assay he shall have two pence for his trouble and no more, and the said clerk shall cause such weights and measures to be branded or stampt with the initial letter of the town where such assay shall be made. And whosoever shall thenceforward, sell or vend any commodity by weights or measures not so branded or marked, shall forfeit for every such offence twenty shillings, on due conviction thereof, before any one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the county wherein the offence shall be committed, to be levied by Warrant of Distress, and sale of the offenders goods.

And for the more effectual preventing such frauds, be it further enacted, that the said clerks shall and are hereby impowered, to inspect all weights and measures, and for that purpose once in three months, or oftner if they see cause, shall visit every inhabitant selling publickly by weights and measures, and shall have full power and authority to seize all such, not stampt or branded as aforesaid, and may assay and mark and dispose of the same for their use, as a satisfaction for their trouble therein; and if any person shall hereafter be convicted of selling by weights and measures less than the standard hereby established, he shall forfeit the sum of ten pounds, to be recovered by bill, complaint, of information, in any of His Majesty's Courts of Record.

And for preventing frauds in the assize of bread, be it enacted, that the clerks of the market be and are hereby impowered to visit every bake-house, or the house of any other person,

selling bread, and to seize all such as shall be found under the weight and assize, established by this Act as follows, viz.

When the price of fine wheaten flour is at or under twelve Shillings the 1112lb. avoirdupoize,

	Avoirdupoize	
	Lb.	Oz.
The sixpenny loaf of the same shall weigh	4.	0.
When from twelve to fourteen shillings inclusive	3.	8.
From fourteen to sixteen inclusive	3.	0.
From sixteen to eighteen inclusive	2.	12.
And above eighteen	2.	8.

And that it shall and may be lawfull for said clerks to stop, and examine the bread that may be carried through the streets, by any person or persons, either for immediate sale, or the supply of his or their customers, and in like manner to seize all such as shall be found under the weight and assize.

And be it further enacted, that every baker within this Province, shall and are hereby required to mark his bread with the first letter of his Christian and surname, which, upon failure thereof shall be seized, and such bread, so seized, shall be forfeited, and delivered to the overseers of the poor of the town where the offence is committed, for the benefit of the poor or prisoners.

Provided always, that if any person shall think himself aggrieved by such seizure, he may apply for redress to any of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the county, who is hereby empowered to determine the same, if application be made within twelve hours after the seizure be made.

And be it further enacted, that if any person making use of weights and measures, or selling bread, shall refuse admittance to any of the said clerks declaring the intent of their coming to discharge the duty of their office, he shall for every such refusal, forfeit the sum of twenty shillings, to be recovered before any one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace.