

*At the General Assembly of the Province of Nova Scotia, begun and holden at Halifax, on the fifth day of December 1785, in the Twenty Sixth Year of his said Majesty's Reign, and there continued by several Prorogations unto the Sixth Day of June 1791, in the Thirty First Year of his Majesty's Reign, being the Sixth Session of the Sixth General Assembly, convened in the said Province.*

31 George III – Chapter 6

**An Act, to prevent the Growth and increase of Thistles on the Lands in this Province.**

Whereas the growth and increase of thistles has become very detrimental in several parts of this province, owing to the neglect of the inhabitants in not cutting them down, and using other means to prevent it.

I. Be it enacted, by the Lieutenant Governor, Council and Assembly, that in all such counties where it may be necessary, the justices in their general sessions of the peace held in the beginning or spring of the year, shall make such regulations as to them shall seem proper and necessary for the preventing the growth and increase of thistles on the lands within such counties respectively, and the regulations so made shall be published by posting the same in the most public places in each township within the said county.

II. And be it also enacted, that the said justices in their sessions as aforesaid, shall appoint two or more proper persons in each township within such county to be inspectors for the purpose of carrying into execution the regulations so made, and if the persons so to be appointed shall refuse to accept such office or having accepted the same, shall neglect their duty therein, they shall forfeit and pay a fine not exceeding three pounds.

III. And be it also enacted, that all and every person, who shall refuse or neglect to pay due obedience to such regulation so made by the said justices, shall forfeit and pay a fine of forty shillings for each such refusal or neglect.

IV. And be it also enacted, that the several penalties and forfeitures aforesaid shall be recovered on complaint, and due proof before the general sessions of the peace, and on non payment thereof, be levied by distress and sale of the offenders goods and chattles by a warrant from the said court, one moiety thereof to the person or persons who shall prosecute the same to effect, the other moiety to be applied to the purpose of repairing the roads in the township wherein the offence shall have been committed at the discretion of said court.

And whereas it may happen that in several counties the general sessions of the peace will not be held until the fall of the year, too late for the purposes of preventing the evil which may arise from the spreading of the thistles now growing.

V. Be it enacted, that a special sessions of the peace shall be held by any three of the justices in any such respective county, where the same may be required, immediately after the publication of this act for the making such regulations as are necessary to be forthwith put in force for that purpose.

VI. And be it further enacted, that this act shall be publicly read at the first sessions of the peace in every year after the grand jury are sworn.