

*At the General Assembly of the Province of Nova Scotia, begun and holden at Halifax, on Wednesday the first day of July, 1761, and in the first year of His Majesty's Reign.*

1 George III – Chapter 6

**An Act to prevent the spreading of contagious Distempers.**

Be it enacted by the Honourable the Commander in Chief, the Council, and Assembly, that every vessel coming into the port of Halifax, having any person on board infected with any plague, small-pox, malignant fever, or other contagious distemper, shall anchor at least two miles below the town of Halifax towards the sea, and on her anchoring shall hoist an ensign with the union downwards at the maintop-mast-head; and the master thereof, shall not permit any of the mariners or passengers belonging to or coming in such vessel, to land: And the said master shall be obliged, within twenty four hours after his arrival, to give notice thereof to the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or Commander in Chief for the time being, of the state, condition, and number of the sick persons on board his vessel, and shall conform himself to such orders and directions as he shall receive from the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or Commander in Chief, both for the performing Quarentine [Quarantine], for the airing and cleaning the passengers, vessel, and goods on board, and for removing the infected and sick persons out of the said vessel.

And be it further enacted, that before any such sick or infected persons be put on shore, the master of such ship or vessel, shall give security for the payment of the charge of removing them on shore, and also for the necessary refreshments, medicines, and attendance, which shall be ordered and directed by the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or Commander in Chief.

And be it further enacted, that any master or masters of any vessel or vessels, who shall not conform themselves to the rules and directions prescribed by this Act, shall be liable to pay a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds, on due conviction thereof, to be recovered by bill, plaint, or information, in any of His Majesty's Courts of Record.

And be it further enacted, that for the preventing any infectious distempers from being brought into, and spreading in any of the other towns within this Province, any one or more Justices of the Peace residing within or nearest to any such town within this Province, where any vessel infected with the small pox or infectious distemper, shall arrive, shall forthwith take care to prevent and restrain all persons belonging to or transported in such ship or vessel, from coming on shore; or if any be before on shore, to send them on board again; as also to restrain persons from going on board such ship or vessel, and to that end may make out a warrant directed to the constable of any such town, who are accordingly empowered and required to execute the same; and such Justice or Justices are forthwith to transmit the intelligence thereof, to the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or Commander in Chief, for their direction and order thereon.