

*At the General Assembly of the Province of Nova Scotia, begun and holden at Halifax, on Thursday the Sixth day of February, 1812, and continued by several Prorogations to Thursday the Tenth day of February, 1814, in the Fifty-fourth year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith &c. &c. being the Fourth Session of the Tenth General Assembly, convened in the said Province. From Henry H. Cogswell, The Statutes at Large passed in the General Assembly held in His Majesty's Province of Nova Scotia: from the Sixth Session of the Eighth General Assembly, to the Fifty-Sixth year of his Majesty's Reign. John Howe and Son, 1816.*

54 George III – Chapter 17

**An Act to give Power to the Firewards of the Town of Halifax, to prevent dangerous quantities of Gunpowder being kept within the said Town, and the Harbour thereof.**

Whereas by an act, made and passed in the twenty-eighth year of his present Majesty's reign, entitled, "An Act in further addition to an act, passed in the second year of his Majesty's reign, entitled, 'An Act for appointing Firewards, and punishing Thefts, and Disorders at the time of Fire,'" it is enacted, that not more than twenty-five pounds of gun-powder, shall be kept at any one time, in any one house, shop, or building, in the town of Halifax, and the justice of the peace, for the said town of Halifax, not being authorised by law to grant their warrants to search for dangerous quantities of gun-powder, in houses, shops or buildings, whereby persons are enabled to evade the provisions of the said act; and whereas private armed ships, and other ships and vessels, frequently anchor in the harbour of Halifax, and lie alongside the wharves, having dangerous quantities of gun-powder on board, to the apparent danger of the lives and fortunes of his Majesty's subjects, for remedy whereof:

I. Be it enacted, by the Lieutenant-Governor, Council and Assembly, that from and after the publication of this act, it shall be lawful for any justice of the peace residing within the town of Halifax, upon complaint made on oath by any fireward or other person, that he or they have reasonable cause to suspect that dangerous quantities of gun-powder are kept within the said town of Halifax, in any houses, storehouses, warehouses, shops, cellars, yards, wharves, or other places, whatsoever, or any ships, boats, or other vessels, in the harbour of Halifax, and within the said town of Halifax, to issue his warrant or warrants to search for the same, in the day time, and for that purpose, admittance being first demanded by such fireward or firewards, and refused by the proprietor or occupant or occupants of such building, store or vessel, it shall and may be lawful for any one of the said justices, upon information on oath made before him, to grant a warrant to break open any such houses, storehouses, warehouses, shops, cellars, yards, wharves, or other places aforesaid, or any ships, boats, or other vessels, if there shall be occasion, and that upon any or every search or searches, a greater quantity of gun powder than the law allows, shall be found by him or them, or either of them, it shall and may be lawful for any such fireward or firewards for the

said town of Halifax, to seize the same, as forfeit to the use of the poor of the town of Halifax, and to sell, dispose of and apply the same as is directed, in and by the said act.

II. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that not more than twenty-five pounds of gun powder shall be kept at any one time, in any one ship, boat or other vessel in the harbour of Halifax, longer than twelve hours after such ship, boat or other vessel, shall have come alongside of any vessel or wharf, within the harbour of Halifax. Provided always, that this act, or any thing herein contained, shall not extend, or be construed to extend, in any wise to affect any ship, boat or other vessel, belonging to his Majesty, his heirs, or successors, wherein gun-powder, or other stores shall be kept for the use of the public.

And whereas the penalties, and forfeitures imposed by the said act passed in the twenty-eighth year of his Majesty's reign, have been found insufficient to prevent persons keeping dangerous quantities of gun-powder:

III. Be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that if any person or persons shall hereafter have or keep any larger or greater quantity of gun-powder than twenty-five pounds at any time in any house, storehouse, warehouse, shop, cellar, yard, wharf, or other place, within the said town of Halifax, or in any ship, boat, or other vessel in the harbour of Halifax, contrary to the provisions of this act, all and every such person or persons shall forfeit and pay for every pound thereof, the sum of five shillings to be recovered by any action, plaint, bill, or information, at the suit of any fireward or firewards for the said town of Halifax, in his Majesty's supreme court for the province, together with full costs of suit to be taxed by the justices of the said court. Provided always, that such action, plaint, bill, or information, shall be commenced, sued and prosecuted, within twelve months next after such forfeiture or penalty shall be incurred.

IV. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that all fines, penalties and forfeitures, incurred by this act, shall be applied in the same manner, as is directed in and by the said act, made and passed in the twenty-eighth year of his present Majesty's reign.