

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 Fifth day of February 1818, in the Fifty-Eighth 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 Eighth Session of the Tenth General Assembly, convened in the said Province.

58 George III – Chapter 12

An Act for the better preservation of the property of the Inhabitants of the Town of Halifax, by providing for a sufficient Watch at Night.

Be it enacted, by the Lieutenant-Governor, Council and Assembly, that at all times, after the publication of this act, when it shall be deemed expedient to establish a nightly watch and ward, for the preservation of the town of Halifax, and for the peace and safety of the inhabitants thereof; and the justices in the sessions, general or special, shall represent the same in writing, to the Lieutenant-Governor or Commander in Chief for the time being, and the Lieutenant-Governor or Commander in Chief may, by and with the consent of His Majesty's council, by an order to be published in the Halifax Gazette, direct such watch, and ward, to be immediately established, for such time as may be deemed expedient, and the said justices in the sessions shall thereupon order and direct such of the inhabitants as they may deem proper to form a watch, to be established in the town of Halifax, for the protection of the property of its inhabitants, and they shall have full power and authority to make such rules, regulations and orders, for the better government of the said watch, as by them may be thought expedient, and shall impose a fine not exceeding ten shillings, on any such person who shall refuse to serve, or who shall transgress any of the rules, regulations or orders, so made by the sessions as aforesaid.

II. And be it further enacted, that every person so appointed to watch, shall during all the time he shall be so appointed to watch, possess all the power and authority of a constable; and all insults, opposition or resistance, offered to any person or persons so appointed, during the time he shall be in the execution of the duty of a watchman, shall be prosecuted and punished as offences committed against constables in the execution of their office.

III. And be it further enacted, that it shall and may be lawful for the grand jury of the county, to present such sum or sums of money as may be necessary to support the necessary expences of the said watch, to be levied and collected in the same manner as other county rates are levied and collected.

IV. And be it further enacted, that all fines or forfeitures incurred for disobedience of this act, or for transgressing the regulations of sessions, made under and by virtue of this act shall and may be recovered before any one of His Majesty's justices of the peace in the town of Halifax, and be applied towards defraying the expences of the said watch.

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V. And be it further enacted, that this act shall be and continue in force for one year from the publication thereof, and from thence to the end of the next session of the general assembly.