

*Acts of the General Assembly of His Majesty's Province of New-Brunswick passed in the year 1786.* Saint John, NB: J. Ryan, 1786.

26 George III – Chapter 27

**An Act for preventing Idleness and Disorders, and for punishing Rogues, Vagabonds, and other idle and disorderly persons**

I. Be it enacted by the Governor, Council and Assembly,  
That all persons who not having any visible means of maintaining themselves, live idle and refuse to work for the usual wages, and all persons going about to beg alms, and all idle and wandering persons, who shall not have a pass or testimonial from some justice of the peace, setting forth from whence such idle and wandering persons shall have come and the place to which they are to pass, and all persons who return to such town parish or place from whence they have been legally removed by order of two justices of the peace, without bringing a certificate from the town or parish whereunto they belong shall be deemed idle and disorderly persons, and it shall be lawful for any justice of the peace on receiving information that any idle or disorderly person or persons is or are in any place within his jurisdiction, to issue his warrant to the constables to search for and apprehend such idle and disorderly person or persons and bring him or them before such justice, who is hereby empowered to examine such person or persons not only as to their manner of livelihood and subsistence, but also as to the place from whence they came and where they were last settled, and they refusing to be examined or not making true answers to such questions as shall be put to them by such justice on such their examination, shall be considered as idle and disorderly persons within the intent and meaning of this act, and be dealt with accordingly.

II. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for any justice of the peace to commit all and every person and persons by this act mentioned and described as idle and disorderly persons (and thereof convicted by their own concession by view or by the oath of one or more credible witness or witnesses, or refusing to be examined, or returning untrue answers as aforesaid) to prison or to the house of correction, there to be kept to hard labour for any time not exceeding one month.

III. And le it further enacted, That if any person or persons shall be found offending in any town or parish or place against this act it shall and may be lawful for any constable of such town, parish or place, and he is hereby enjoined and required on notice thereof given him by any of the inhabitants, to apprehend and convey, or cause to be conveyed, such person so offending, to a justice of the peace of the county in order to be examined and proceeded against according to law. And if any constable after such notice given as aforesaid, shall refuse or neglect to use his belt endeavors to apprehend and convey such offenders before a justice of the peace as aforesaid, being thereof legally convicted before such justice of the peace, every such constable shall forfeit and pay to the use of the poor thereof the sum of ten shillings,

to be levied by distress and sale of the offender's goods, by warrant from such justice, and the overplus if any, after the charge of prosecution and of such distress shall be satisfied, shall be return'd to such offender.

IV. And be it further enacted, That any person or persons who shall conceive him, her or themselves aggrieved by any act, judgment or determination of any justice or justices of the peace out of sessions in and concerning the execution of this act may appeal to the next general quarter sessions of the city or county on finding two sufficient securities in ten pounds each, to prosecute such appeal to effect.