

**An Acte agaynst the excessiue takynge of the Kynge
and the Queenes Maiesties
purueyours.**



¶ For the auoydunge of the great anoyauce and hyndraunce commonly done to the Subiectes of this realme, by purueyours & takers of Beues, Wethers, Lambes, Calues, al kyndes of grayne Butter, Chease, Bacon, all kyndes of pullayne and to excheue hereafter not onelye the greate Deceipt ministred and Done Daylye by the sayde purueyours and takers, but also hereby to aduaunce the kynge and quenes maiesties better seruice in the premisses, with the contentation of all theyr hyghnes faythfull and moste obedient Subiectes.

Be it therefore enacted by our sayde Soueraigne Lozde and Ladye, with the assente of the lordes spirituall and tempozall, and the commons in thys present Parliament assembled, and by the aucthoritie of the same, that after the feast of the byrthe of our Lord next ensewng, euerye suche commission as shalbe made, graunted, and directed, to anye person or persons, what soeuer wherby the same person or persons, or theyr deputies shal haue aucthoritie to take anye Beues, Wethers, Lambes, Calves, or anye kynde of salte fishe, or anye kynde or kyndes of grayne, or any butter in barrells or other vessels, Chease, Bakon, Connies, Pigges, Gese, Capons, or Hennes, that the same commission or commissions shal not extende or continue aboue the space of fyve monethes at the farthest nexte ensewng the date of anye of the sayde commissions. And after the ende of the sayde fyve monethes euerye of the sayde commissions to be voyde and of no force nor effecte, what soeuer wordes, matter, or sentences shalbe conteyned or expressed in anye of the same commissions.

And be it further enacted by the aucthoritie aforesayde, that in al and euery such commission or commissions to be graunted after the sayde feast of the byrthe of our lord, shalbe playnly aswel contayned & expressed, suche countie or counties, as any of the said Beues, Wethers, Lambes, Calves, Hogges or Swyne, or any kynde of salte fishe, or anye kynde or kyndes of grayne, butter, chease, bakon, connies, pygges, gese, capons or hennes, or anye of them, is to be leuied, purueyed or taken in, by any of the person or persons or theyr deputie or deputies, so authorised, by the vertue of the sayde commission or commissions, as also the iuste, true and ful proportion and number, of all and euerye suche beues, wethers, lambes, calues, swyne, any kynde of salte fishe, or anye kynde or kyndes of grayne, butter in barrells or other vesselles, chease, bakon, connies, pigges, gese, capons, and hennes, or anye of them, as the sayde person or persons, their deputie or deputies, or any of them shalbe by force and vertue of the sayd commission or commissions aucthorised to leuie, take, or puruaye, within anye of the sayde countie or counties.

And be it further enacted by the aucthoritie aforesayde, that to euery such commission or commissions after the sayd byrth of our Lord to be made, graunted, and directed, as is aforesayd, shalbe annexed so many blanckes in parchement, as there shalbe seuerall counties expressed, named, and contayned within the sayde commission or commissions or anye of them in the which blanckes shalbe fayre and legeably wrytten, all and euerye such beues, wethers, lambes, calves, swyne, anye kinde of salte fishe, or anye kynde or kyndes of grayne, butter, chease, bakon, connies, pigges, gese, capons, and hennes, wyth the true and seuerall prices of

the same, and euerye of them as shalbe leuied, gathered, and purueyed, by anye person or persons, theyr Deputie or Deputies, or anye of them as shalbe thereunto aucthorised, by anye suche commission or commissions aforesayde, within anye perticuler towne, parishe, or hamlet, set, lyinge, and beyng, within anye those countie or counties, as shalbe named, contayned, and expessed, within the sayde commission or commissions, or anye of them, whereunto shalbe subscribed the name or signe manuell of all and euerye suche high constable or constables, petie constable or constables, headborowe, or headborowes, as shalbe by anye precepte to hym or them directed, by anye person or persons, theyr Deputie or Deputies, or anye of them, aucthorised thereunto by suche commission or commissions to be graunted, as is aforesayde, priuie or knowledgyng to the deliuerie of the sayde beues, wethers, lambes, calues, any kynde of salt fishe, or anye kynde or kyndes of grayne, butter, chease, bakon, connies, pigges, gese, capons, and hennes, or anye of them.

And be it further enacted by aucthoritie aforesayde, that euerye person or persons, theyr Deputie or Deputies, or anye of them whiche shalbe by commission, or commissions, hereafter to be graunted as is aforesayde, aucthorised to leuie, take, or puruaye anye beues, wethers, lambes, calues, swyne, salte fysh, or anye kynde or kyndes of grayne, butter in barrells or other vesselles, chease, bakon, connies, pigges, gese, capons, and hennes, or anye of them, as is beforesayde, shall make a docket or bryfe in wyrtynge subscribed with hys or theyr name or names, conteynyng all and euerye suche beues, wethers, lambes, calues, swyne, kynde of salte fishe, kynde or kyndes of grayne, butter in barrells or other vessels, chease, bakon, connyes, pygges, gese, capons, and hennes, or anye of them, as he or they shall by vertue of the sayd commission or commissions, leuie, take, or puruey, within anye perticuler towne, parishe, or hamlet, set, lyinge, and being within anye suche countie or counties, as shalbe named, contayned, and expessed, within the sayde commission or commissions, or anye of them, and the same docket or Dockettes, bryfe or bryfes, faire and legeablye wyrtten and subscribed as is aforesayde, shall well and truely deliuer to the sayde hyghe constable, petie constable, or headborowe, or one of them, at suche present tyme, as the sayde beues, wethers, lambes, calues, swyne, salte fysh, kinde or kyndes of grayne, butter, chease, bakon, connies, pigges, gese, capons, and hennes, or anye of them, shalbe deliuered to them or anye of them, vpon payne of forfeiture of .C. markes, of lawefull money, and one yeres imprisonment as often as he shall so offende. The one moyte of which forfeiture to be to the kyng & queenes maiesties, and the other moyte to hym that wyll sue therfoze in anye of the kyng and quenes courte of Recorde, by byll, playnte, writte, information or other wyse, whererein no wager of lawe protection or essoigne to be allowed. All whiche Dockettes, or bryfes, the sayde hyghe constable, or constables, petie constable, or constables, headborowe or headborowes, shall deliuer ouer to the Justices of peace, at the next generall sessions to be holden within anye of the sayde counties. And that the same iustices or two of them, may and shall from tyme to tyme certifie the whole number and content of all and euerye the sayd Dockettes and bryfes, to the lord steward of the kyng, and quenes most honorable household for the tyme beyng, or to the Treasurer & Comptroller of the same, or anye of the, or to the Treasurer & Comptroller of the kyng & Quenes shippes, yf prouision of anye the thinges afozemencioned be prouided or taken, for the byctaylyng of the nauye, or anye of the kyng or Quenes maiesties shippes, wherby the seruyng of anye of the foresayde Commission or Commissions, and true aunsweryng of the same shall fullye appeare.

¶ Provided alwayes and be it enacted by thauuthoritie aforesayd, that it shal not be leaful to any person or persons, theyr deputie or deputies, or any of them, whiche shalbe aucthorised by suche commission or commissions, hereafter to be graunted as is aforesayde, to leuie, take, or puruey, any beues, wethers, lambes, calves, anye kynde of salte fishe, kynde or kyndes of grayne, butter in barreles or other vessels, chease, bakon, connies, pigges, geese, capons, and hennes, or anye of them, otherwise, or in anye other sorte and maner, then is in seuerall estatutes heretofore for purueyours made, ordeyned, provided, appoynted, limited, and expressed, vpon suche payne and paynes, as in the sayde seuerall estatutes is contayned and expressed.

And for asmuch as the good and necessary lawes heretofore made and provided against the abuses and euill doynge of purueyours, are not taken to extende to the vndertakers, deputies, & seruautes of any such purueyours, by whome therfore the people of thys realme be oftentimes verie vncharitable and vnlawfully vsed and oppressed.

Be it therfore enacted by the aucthoritie of thys present parliament, that all and euerye suche lawes, statutes, and provisions, as heretofore haue bene made and ordeyned agaynste purueyours, and all and euerye the paynes, penalties, forfeiture, and losse, contayned, mentioned, or appointed, in any of the same lawes or estatutes against purueyours and takers, or any of them, shal also be extended & executed vpon euery of theyr vndertakers, deputies, and seruautes. And all other whiche by colour shall after the fyrst daye of Januarie, nexte commynge, take any victuall or any other thyng, by vertue or force of any suche commission, from anye the kynge and Quenes maiesties Subiectes, contrarye to the tenor and effecte of any of the sayd lawes, or estatutes, in like maner and fourme to all intentes and purposes, as the same lawes and estatutes, or anye of them, and the paynes and forfeitures therein conteyned, should, myght, or ought to be executed & extended agaynst purueyours & takers themselves or any of them. And as strongly & amply, as yf the sayde vndertakers deputies, & seruautes were specialle and perticulerlye recited and named in euerye of the same estatutes.

¶ Provided alwayes and be it enacted by thauuthoritie aforesayde, for the better execution of thys acte and all other actes concernynge purueyours, that all and euerye commission and commissions that from henceforthe shalbe made and graunted vnto any purueyours, shalbe written and set forthe from tyme to tyme in the Englishe tonge, and not otherwyse.

God saue the kynge and the Quene.

EXCVSVM LONDINI IN AEDIBVS

IOHANNIS CAVVODI TYPOGRAPHI

REGIÆ MAIESTATIS.

Anno. M. D. LV.

Cum priuilegio ad imprimendum solum.