

Original  
Journal. of the Bill lying before us relat[ing to the Establishing] of the protestant Religion in this province, [which this house proposed] to pass as it is already penned, But in regard [yo<sup>r</sup> Ex<sup>cy</sup> app[roves not the same without some alteration and this [house can]not at present recede from their former resolves therein, and it appearing to us a matter of as great moment as can come under our consideration. We desire that the further proceedings as to the accomplishing the Same may at present be referred untill another assembly, that thereby we may severally and seperately consider the same.

Signed by order

W Bladen Clk Assembly.

Sent p Major Hamond, M<sup>r</sup> Frisby, M<sup>r</sup> Crauford and M<sup>r</sup> Clarke, who returne and Say they have delivered their Message.

Upon the petition of Severall the Inhabitants of Dorchester County.

Resolved that the Act ag<sup>t</sup> Striking ffish in Dorchester County and Somerset County be repealed.

Proposed that a mold or place be made at the end of the Stad<sup>t</sup> house for his Ma<sup>ty</sup>s picture.

Assented to by the house.

The house adjourned till 6 of the clock to Morrow Morning.

Wednesday July the 8<sup>th</sup> 1696. The house met again.

Debated in the house concerning the act of Religion, and Resolved the following Message be sent to his Ex<sup>cy</sup> the Gov<sup>r</sup> and Councill.

By the House of Burgesses, July the 8<sup>th</sup> 1696

p. 11 We did Yesterday by our written Message address ourselves to yo<sup>r</sup> Ex<sup>cy</sup> in Councill concerning a Bill lying before us touching which we prayed further tyme to consider, to which your Ex<sup>cy</sup> has not yet been pleased to give us answer. We humbly pray your Ex<sup>cy</sup> to be assured that what we have done or ordered proceeds from honest hearts and earnest desires as well to the Service of Almighty God and his Ma<sup>ty</sup> as to our owne Rights and libertyes; and that therefore yo<sup>r</sup> Ex<sup>cy</sup> will so understand us and give [an answer to] our former message.

Signed p ord<sup>r</sup> W Bladen Clk: Assembly

Sent by Severall [members of this house] who returne [and say they deli]vered their Message.

M<sup>r</sup> Clarke, Major [Dorsey,] Major Hamond and M<sup>r</sup> Boothby