

No. 24 An Act for the more effectual Preservation of the Breed of Wild
 Liber R. G. Deer.

1773
 [Preamble.]

Whereas it has been represented to this General Assembly that the Species of Deer hath of late Years been very much lessened, for the Prevention whereof it is thought proper by this General Assembly to pass an Act restraining all persons whatsoever from shooting or otherwise destroying them for a limited Time.

[Penalty on
 Persons kill-
 ing Deer
 during
 Three
 Years;]

Be it therefore enacted by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary by and with the Advice and Consent of his Governor and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly and the Authority of the same That it shall not be Lawful for any Person or Persons whatsoever within this Province (the Indians in Amity with us excepted) from and after the End of this Session of Assembly during the Term of three Years to kill any Deer under the Penalty of Ten pounds Current Money for every Deer so killed to be recovered in the County Court where the said Offence shall be committed by Indictment or Information one half of which said Sum of ten Pounds shall be applied to the Use of the County School where such Offence shall be committed and the other half to be received by the Person who shall make Information of the said Offence.

[How to be
 recovered
 and applied.]

[Persons in
 whose
 Hands Deers
 Flesh is
 found to be
 deemed the
 Killers.]

And be it further enacted that any Person or Persons whatsoever in whose hands or Custody any Deers flesh shall be found that shall appear to have been killed on or before the End of the said three Years shall be deemed taken and adjudged the Killer of such Deer and liable to the Penalty aforesaid unless such Person shall make it appear who it was that really killed the same or from whom such Person or Persons thereof possessed received the same

[Inhabitants
 of this Prov-
 ince not to
 purchase
 dead Deer of
 Indians.]
 p. 282

And be further enacted that it is the true Intent and meaning of this Act that the Liberty given to the Indians aforesaid shall extend only to the killing of Deer for their private Use and not for Sale and that it shall not be Lawful for any Inhabitant within this Province under the Penalty aforesaid to be recovered as aforesaid for the Uses aforesaid to purchase any Dead Deer or any Part thereof of any Indian or Indians within the Time prohibited by this Act to kill Deer.

[Nor to kill
 Deer dur-
 ing Three
 Years, nor
 afterwards
 except in
 September
 and Octo-
 ber.]

And be it further enacted That no Person or Persons whatsoever shall shoot or otherwise destroy any Deer after the End of this present Sessions of Assembly for and during the Term of three Years and that no Person or Persons whatsoever after the Expiration of the said Three Years shall shoot kill or destroy any Deer during the Continuance of this Act except in the Months of September and October Yearly.

[Justices of
 County
 Courts to
 give this
 Act in
 Charge to
 their Grand
 Juries, &c.]

And be it further enacted that the Justices of the several County Courts shall and they are hereby required to give this Act in Charge