

things of different natures, therefore recomends to them to pass it as proposed; for that if it should go in the words fundamentall laws of the Kingdom of England it would occasion them to carry their causes to Westminster. But if they think fitt to draw up a Declaratory Act of their Rights and priviledges he will pass it here and use his interest for the passing thereof in England.

Original  
Journal.

After which the members repaired to their house, and entered into Debate concerning the said Bill.

Put to the Question and carried by Majority of voices that a Com̄ittee be appointed to draw up reasons for or ag<sup>t</sup> passing the s<sup>d</sup> Bill.

Appointed of the s<sup>d</sup> Com̄ittee, Cap<sup>t</sup> Dent, M<sup>r</sup> Boothby, M<sup>r</sup> Clarke Cap<sup>t</sup> Hill, Col: Codd, Major Hutchison, Major Thompson, M<sup>r</sup> Robert Smith, and M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Hutchison.

House adjourned for 2 hours.

Post Meridiem The House met.

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Major Dent and the other members this day appointed a Com̄ittee to draw up Reasons for or against passing the Bill for Religion, Enter the house and present Severall reasons for and ag<sup>t</sup> passing the s<sup>d</sup> Bill as proposed which were read in the house and these in the following Message [sent up to] his Ex<sup>cy</sup> and his Ma<sup>tys</sup> hon<sup>ble</sup> Councill, Viz<sup>t</sup>

By the house [of Burgesses July the 9<sup>th</sup>] 1696

We have with [our utmost care and Scrutiny] considered the clause in the law [for Religion; And] as we are earnestly desirous to propogate the same [out of the sense] of our duty to God loyalty to his most sacred Ma<sup>ty</sup> and in] imitation of his Ex<sup>cy</sup> most noble and worthy example, so we conceive we ought not altogether to be unmindfull of the Rights and libertyes of ourselves and those we represent. We are earnestly desirous rightly to understand his Ex<sup>cy</sup> and to be Rightly understood by him, and therefore have endeavoured to find out an accomodation of words, that may answer all Intents, by putting in the words, Laws and Statutes of England instead of the words fundamentall laws of England.

We are not in the least doubt of our Rights or Libertyes being infringed by our Gracious Sovereigne or our noble and worthy Governor; and do sincerely acknowledge that his Ex<sup>cy</sup> Governs by the fairest measures and freest adminiscōn of the Laws we are capable of understanding and therefore have not the least apprehension of his invading our Rights and priviledges, We firmly believe ourselves and those we