

or other public places, by such Justice of the Peace to be dealt with according to law, and all peace officers within the limits of such Parishes respectively, are hereby commanded and enjoined to be aiding and assisting such Churchwarden or Churchwardens in the execution of the duty herein assigned to each and every of them respectively, under a penalty of shillings currency, for each and every offence.

VIII. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that all penalties and forfeitures, by this Act imposed, for any offence against the same, shall be levied by distress and sale of the goods and chattels of the offender, by warrant of distress under the hand and seal of a Justice of the Peace for the District or County where such offence, neglect or default shall happen, rendering the overplus of such distress (if any there be) to the party or parties, after deducting the charges of making the same, which warrant such Justice of the Peace is hereby empowered and required to grant, after complaint or information to him made or given, upon conviction of the offender by confession, or upon the oath of one or more credible witness or witnesses, other than the informer, or upon the oath of the informer, when the same is specially admitted by this Act; and the penalties and forfeitures, when so levied, shall be paid, the one half to the informer, and the other half to his Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, excepting when a Churchwarden, Captain, Officer or Serjeant of Militia, as aforesaid, shall be the informer, in which case the whole of the said fine shall belong to His Majesty. Provided always that no suit or action shall be commenced or brought but within three months next after the offence committed, and not afterwards. Provided also that every Churchwarden, Officer or Serjeant of Militia, as aforesaid, shall be deemed a competent witness in all matters relative to the execution of this Act, notwithstanding he may be the prosecutor or informer for any offence, neglect or default against the same.

IX. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if any action, bill or plaint be brought against any churchwarden or churchwardens, captain, officer, or serjeant of Militia as aforesaid, for any thing done in virtue of this Act, he or they may plead the general issue, and give the special matter and this Act in evidence, and if a judgment or verdict is given against the Plaintiff, or he shall become non-suit or discontinue his
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