

An ACT for confirming Titles to Lands, and quieting Possessions.

Be it enacted by his Excellency the Governor, Council, and Assembly, and by the Authority of the same it is hereby enacted, That all Persons claiming or deriving any Right or Title to any Lands or Tenements, by Virtue of any Grants or Deeds, entered in the publick Registry of this Province, or by Virtue of any Last Will or Testament, shall have, hold, and enjoy such Lands and Tenements, according to the Tenor and Effect of such Grants or Deeds registered, and of such Last Will and Testament, whether the Estate be in his or their own Right, or in Right of, or in Trust for another; and that all Possessions by Virtue thereof shall be, and are hereby confirmed, any want of legal Form in such Grants, Deeds or Wills, notwithstanding.

Provided, That no Papist hereafter shall have any Right or Title to hold, possess, or enjoy, any Lands or Tenements, other than by Virtue of any Grant or Grants from the Crown, but that all Deeds or Wills, hereafter made, conveying ~~to any Papist,~~ or in Trust for any Papist, shall be utterly null and void: And such Lands or Tenements shall not revert to the Persons granting the same to any Papist, or in Trust for any Papist, but such Lands or Tenements shall, upon Conviction of such Papist, be vested in His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors forever.

And it is hereby enacted, That before the Registry of any Grant or Deed of any Lands or Tenements, other than by Virtue of any Grant or Grants from the Crown, the Person or Persons to whom, or for whose Use such Grant or Deeds are made, shall take the Oaths appointed to be taken instead of the Oaths of Supremacy and Allegiance, and make and subscribe the Declaration before the Register of the Province or his Deputy, who are hereby impowered to administer the same: And if any Person shall refuse to take the said Oaths, and subscribe the said Declaration, the Grants or Deeds made to such Persons, shall be null and void to all intents and Purposes whatsoever.

And it is hereby further enacted, That all Deeds of Sale of any Lands or Tenements, made by the Provost-Marshal, under Writs of Execution to him issued, for the Satisfaction of any Judgments, shall be and are hereby confirmed.

Provided nevertheless, That it shall and may be lawful for any Person or Persons, whose Lands have been taken in Execution, and sold as aforesaid,