

Action of Debt before any Court proper to try the same ; one half to the Use of this Commonwealth, and the other half to the use of any person who shall prosecute or sue for the same. *Approved June 29, 1798.*

**1798. — Chapter 32.**

[May Session, ch. 33.]

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ADDITIONAL TERM OF THE SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF NORFOLK.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court Assembled & by the Authority of the same* that there be held & kept at Dedham within & for the said County of Norfolk on the second Tuesday of February annually a Supreme Judicial Court in addition to the term now by law established for said County & all officers are directed to Govern themselves accordingly.

*Approved June 29, 1798.*

**1798. — Chapter 33.**

[May Session, ch. 34.]

AN ACT TO PREVENT PROFANE CURSING AND SWEARING.

*Whereas the horrible practice of profane Cursing and Swearing is inconsistent with the dignity & rational cultivation of the human mind, with a due reverence of the Supreme Being and his Providence, & hath a natural tendency to weaken the solemnity and obligation of Oaths lawfully taken in the administration of Justice; to promote fals[e]hood, perjuries, blasphemies, and dissoluteness of manners, and to loosen the bonds of civil society:*

Preamble.

SECT. 1. *Be it therefore Enacted, by the Senate & House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,* That if any person, who has arrived at discretion, shall profanely Curse or Swear, and shall be thereof convicted, such person, so offending, shall forfeit and pay a sum, not exceeding two Dollars, nor less than one Dollar, according to the aggravation of the offence, and the quality and circumstances of the Offender, in the Judgment of the Court or Justice of the Peace before whom the conviction may be; and in case the same person shall after one conviction, as aforesaid, offend a second time, such Offender shall forfeit & pay upon such second conviction, double the sum forfeited on

Penalties for profane swearing or cursing.