

or for any town,  
county, or mili-  
tary officer.

serve in the general court of this colony, or for any town, county, or military officer; and shall have taken from him all his arms, ammunition and warlike implements, in the same manner, and the like proceedings shall be thereon had, as is hereinbefore directed for disarming those who refuse or neglect to sign said declaration.

[SECT. 10.] And nothing in this act shall be construed to entitle any persons who may have been heretofore disarmed by any of the committees of correspondence, inspection or safety, in any town or place in this colony, to receive their arms again but by the order of such committee or the general court. [Passed May 1, 1776]

## CHAPTER 22.

AN ACT FOR ESTABLISHING THE STILE OF COMMISSIONS WHICH SHALL  
HEREAFTER BE ISSUED, AND FOR ALTERING THE STILE OF WRITS,  
PROCESSES, AND ALL LAW PROCEEDINGS, WITHIN THIS COLONY;  
AND FOR DIRECTING HOW RECOGNIZANC[E]S TO THE USE OF THIS  
GOVERNMENT, SHALL, FOR THE FUTURE, BE TAKEN AND PROSE-  
CUTED.

Preamble.

WHEREAS the petitions of the United Colonies, to George the Third, king of Great Brit[t]ain, for the redress of great and manifest gr[ev]ances, have not only been rejected but treated with scorn and contempt, and their opposition to designs evidently formed to reduce them to a state of servile subjection, and their necessary defence against hostile forces actually employed to subdue them, have been declar[e]d rebellion; and whereas an unjust war has been commenc[e]d against them, which the commanders of Brit[t]ish fleets and armies have prosecuted, and still continue to prosecute, with their utmost vigour, in cruel manners, and have directed their veng[e]ance principally against this colony, wasting, spoiling and destroying the country, burning houses and defenceless towns, and exposing the helpless inhabitants to every mis[s]ery, — by which inhumane and barbarous treatment, by the commandment of George the Third, king of Great Brit[t]ain, &c., the people of this colony consider themselves greatly injur[e]d, and have been oblig[ed] to have recourse to arms to repel such injuries; and whereas, under such circumstances, the absurdity of issuing commissions, writs, processes and other proceedings in law, and in the courts of justice within this colony, in the name and stile of the king of Great Brit[t]ain, is very apparent, and the tendency it has to keep up ideas inconsistent with the saf[e]ty of this government has given the good people of this colony great uneasiness, —

*Be it therefore enacted by the Council and House of Represent[i]v[e]s in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,*

Style of civil  
commissions,  
&c:

— their dates.

[SECT. 1.] That all civil commissions, writs and precepts for conven[ing] the general court or assembly, which shall hereafter be made out in this colony, shall be in the stile and name of the Government and People of the Mass[achusetts] Bay, in New England; and all commissions, both civil and military, shall be dated in the year of the Christian [era], and shall not bear the date of the year of the reign of any king or queen of Great Brit[t]ain.

The regal style  
expunged, June  
1st, 1776.

[SECT. 2.] And that all writs, processes and proceedings in law, and in any of the courts of justice in this colony, which have been

used [and] [or] accust[u][o]med, or, by any of the laws of this colony, are required to be issued, used or practiced in law, and in any of the courts of justice in this colony, in the name and stile of the king of Great Brit[t]ain, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c., or in any other words implying or intending the same, shall, from and after the first day of June, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, be made, issued, used and practiced, in the name and stile of the Government and People of the Mass[e][a]chusetts Bay, in New England, and no other; and shall bear the date of the year of the Christian era, and shall not bear the date of the year of the reign of any king or queen of Great Brit[t]ain, until[l] some [recom- mendation] [accommodation] of the American Congress, or act, order, or resolve, of a general American legislature, or of the legislature of this colony, shall be made and passed, otherwise directing and pre- scribing.

*And be it enacted,*

[SECT. 3.] That all commissions, civil and military, which have been issued by the major part of the council of this colony s[e][i]nce the nineteenth day of September, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five, shall have the same force and effect as if this act had not been made, the stile and date therein notwithstanding, until[l] the nineteenth day of September, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, and no longer.

Commissions issued, to be in force until the 19th of Septem- ber, 1776.

*Provided, nevertheless,—*

[SECT. 4.] That when any such commissions shall be brought to the council of this colony, to be made conformable to the stile and date by this act required for is[s]uing commissions hereafter, the council are hereby impowered and directed to cause the same to be done.

Council empow- ered to alter the stile of com- missions.

*And be it further enacted,*

[SECT. 5.] That all recogni[s][z]ances that heretofore have been used and accustomed to be taken to the king of Great Brit[t]ain, by the stile and title of our sovereign lord the king, shall, from and after the first day of June, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, be taken to the government and people of the Mass[e][a]chusetts Bay, in New England; and when a *scire facias*, or other legal process shall be issued thereon against the recognizor or recogni[s][z]ors, they shall be in the name and behalf of the said government and people; and when judgment shall be rendered thereon, the money recovered and levied shall be paid into the treasury of this colony, for the use of the same.

New style, when to begin.

*And be it further enacted,*

[SECT. 6.] That all suits upon recogn[z][in]an[c]es which have been heretofore taken within this colony to the king of Great Brit- [t]ain, under any name, character or form of words, whatsoever, that have been or that may be hereafter forfeited (if any suits should be brought thereon) shall, from and after the said first day of June, be commenced and prosecuted in the name and behalf of the government and people of the Mass[e][a]chusetts Bay, in New England, and not in the name of the said king; and the money recovered and levied on such suits shall be likewise paid into the treasury of this colony, for the use and benefit of the said people. [Passed May 1, 1776.]

Former suits, how to be issued.