

# A Bill to Protect the Economic and Political Rights of Virginians Against Unjust Parliamentary Acts.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

**SECTION 1.** The colony of Virginia shall formally terminate the Currency Act (1764), the Sugar Act, and the Stamp Act, as harming and violating the economic and political rights of colonists.

**SECTION 2.** These Acts are deemed unjustified for the reasons listed below:

- A. The Currency Act deprives colonist of their ability to provide for their families and regulate their own money supply, weakening our local trade and placing an unnecessary burden.
- B. The Sugar Act imposes taxes on imported goods without representation, harming farmers, merchants, and consumers. Making it harder for consumers to access, due to tax dollars.
- C. The Stamp Act levies a direct tax on the colonies; Virginians feel that it undermines the House of Burgesses and leaves it with little authority.

**SECTION 3.** The colony of Virginia shall:

- A. Send a formal petition to Parliament and His Majesty and King, asserting that only the elected representatives of Virginia have to pay the taxes upon its people.
- B. Encourage all colonies to boycott any British goods affected by these acts until Parliament repeals them.
- C. Support from neighboring colonies in forming a united peaceful protest to protect the common liberties of all British Americans.

**SECTION 4.** This resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage. Virginia officials and courts shall suspend enforcement of the Stamp Act until Parliament provides for the representation of the colonies.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Representative Alisia Bentley of Caroline High School.*

# A Bill to Promote Agricultural Diversification in the Colony of Virginia

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The Colony of Virginia shall establish a loan program to encourage and support  
3 planters in the cultivation of alternative crops beyond tobacco, including but not  
4 limited to wheat, corn, hemp, flax, and indigo, in order to ensure agricultural  
5 stability and long-term economic security for the colony.

6 **SECTION 2.** “Loan” shall refer to sums of money provided at a favorable interest rate by the  
7 Crown.

8 “Planters” shall be defined as the landholders engaged in large-scale farming  
9 intended for market production.

10 “Program” shall refer to the colonial initiative established under this legislation  
11 to promote and support the cultivation of alternative crops through incentives,  
12 guidance, and trade support.

13 **SECTION 3.** The committee on Finance, Commerce, Agriculture, and General Laws shall  
14 oversee the enforcement of this program as follows:

- 15 A. The Colonial Governor of Virginia shall appoint commissioners to distribute,  
16 record, and oversee the proper use of the loaned funds.
- 17 B. After a period of ten years from the Act’s effective date, the Treasury shall  
18 impose a moderate duty upon all exported agriculture from the colonies  
19 receiving the loan, the proceeds of which shall be directed to the repayment  
20 of the principal and interest of the loan.
- 21 C. The Royal Navy and local colonial militias shall afford protection to settlers  
22 and secure trade routes necessary for the transport of crops.

23 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on July 1, 1756. All laws in conflict with this  
24 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

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*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Evan Coulter from Ransom Everglades.*

# A Bill to Establish a Colonial Fund for Defense and Infrastructure

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** A *Colonial Fund for Defense and Infrastructure* shall be established under the  
3 authority of the Virginia House of Burgesses to collect and expend locally raised  
4 revenues for the improvement and protection of the colony.

5 **SECTION 2.** A. The Fund shall be supported by modest excise duties upon imported luxury  
6 goods such as wine, silks, and fine glassware, levied solely by the authority of  
7 this Assembly.

8 B. All monies collected shall be used exclusively for:

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- 10 1. The construction and repair of roads, bridges, and public works within the colony;
  - 11 2. The arming, training, and supply of local militias for the defense of the frontier;
  - 12 3. The maintenance of defensive posts and forts within the colony's established  
13 boundaries.

14 **SECTION 3.** The Treasurer of the Colony shall administer the Fund and report annually to the  
15 House of Burgesses.

16 A. No royal officer, customs agent, or other representative of His Majesty's  
17 Treasury may alter, divert, or appropriate these revenues for uses outside  
18 the colony.

19 B. Any violation of this section shall be reported by petition to His Majesty for  
20 the immediate dismissal of the offending officer.

21 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect upon approval by the Governor's Council in the  
22 year of our Lord 1768. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby  
23 declared null and void.  
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*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Veronica Luzine from Ransom Everglades.*

# A BILL TO STRENGTHEN COLONIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1   **SECTION 1.**    In order to promote the expansion and development of the  
2                   Thirteen Colonies, funds shall be allocated toward the  
3                   improvement and construction of public roads, bridges, and  
4                   other essential infrastructure necessary for travel and trade  
5                   among the colonies.  
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8   **SECTION 2.**    A small toll or travel tax shall be collected from individuals or  
9                   merchants who use public roads and bridges connecting towns  
10                  and colonies. Revenue generated shall be dedicated exclusively  
11                  to the maintenance and improvement of colonial transportation  
12                  routes.  
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15   **SECTION 3.**    Each colony shall appoint a local overseer of public works  
16                   to ensure that construction and repairs are completed  
17                   efficiently and that tolls are collected fairly.  
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19   **SECTION 4.**    All laws or ordinances in conflict with this act shall be hereby  
20                   declared null and void.  
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22   **SECTION 5.** This bill shall take effect immediately upon passage.  
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*Respectfully Submitted*  
*Joshua Mejia*  
*Manchester HS*

# Water Quality Standards

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** The Colonies shall adopt stricter, enforceable water quality  
2 standards to reduce contamination from industrial, agricultural,  
3 and municipal sources in all navigable waters and public water  
4 systems.

5 **SECTION 2.** Navigable and public waters shall include all rivers,  
6 streams, ponds, and wells used for human consumption or  
7 household use.

8 Contaminants shall include runoff from animal waste,  
9 distilleries, slaughterhouses, and other businesses or  
10 organizations that discharge harmful or poisonous materials.

11 **SECTION 3.** A. Each Colony shall appoint a Water Overseer or a  
12 committee of health officers to inspect public waters

13 B. Water Overseers shall have the authority to impose fines  
14 on any person or business organization found to be harming  
15 public water sources.

16 C. Fines collected shall be used to fund repay the crown from  
17 the French and Indian War  
18 public water supplies.

19 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect one year from passage. All  
20 laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and  
21 void.  
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*Respectfully, Julin Myrick,  
Manchester High School*

# A Bill to Incentivize Local Industry to Manufacture Durable Industrial Goods

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1   **SECTION 1.**   Colonial and county officials shall henceforth be prohibited from collecting  
2                   duties, taxes, or levies on craftsmen or corporations which manufacture  
3                   durable industrial goods and commodities.
- 4   **SECTION 2.**   Durable industrial goods and commodities shall be defined as non-artisanal  
5                   products and commodities which require skilled labor to be manufactured.  
6                   This includes, but is not limited to: iron, textiles, garments, glass, firearms,  
7                   cannons, and gunpowder.
- 8   **SECTION 3.**   The Virginia General Assembly shall be responsible for enforcing the  
9                   provisions of this bill. Any existing levies against the specified goods shall  
10                  be eliminated. A fine equivalent to the sum illegally taxed shall be imposed  
11                  upon officials who violate this bill.
- 12 **SECTION 4.**   The provisions of this bill shall take effect immediately upon passage. All  
13                  laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

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*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Justinas Petkauskas.*

## **A Bill to Fund the King's Forces and Ensure American Security**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Tax rebates of up to 20% will be provided to any and all who quarter  
3 soldiers in their homes, proportionate to the duration and number of  
4 troops accommodated, thereby strengthening both the Crown's army  
5 and local American security.  
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8 **SECTION 2.**

9 A. "Rebate" shall be defined as the direct reduction of owed taxes equivalent to a  
10 fixed percentage based on verified quartering records.

11 B. "Quartering" shall be defined as the housing or offering of basic provisions,  
12 including but not limited to, food, shelter and sanitation, to soldiers.

13 C. "Army" shall be defined as the British government's soldiers, presiding officers  
14 and defense system.

15 **SECTION 3.** This legislation shall be overseen by the Colonial Treasury Office and His  
16 Majesty's appointed Royal Governors.

17 A. The Colonial Treasury Office (under the Committee on Finance's  
18 Jurisdiction) shall collect the increased taxes and to distribute rebates  
19 (after verification through quartering reports).

20 B. Local Magistrates shall certify the accuracy of duration of soldiers  
21 quartered per household in quartering reports.

22 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on July 1, 1763. All colonial tax laws in  
23 conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.  
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## **A Bill to Regulate the Quartering of Soldiers within the Colony of Virginia**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1   **SECTION 1.**   The Colony of Virginia shall call forth a regulation concerning the quartering  
2                   of His Majesty's soldiers within the colony to ensure fair treatment of both  
3                   the citizenry and the Crown's forces. This regulation shall provide structure  
4                   to the process of lodging soldiers during both times of peace and conflict  
5                   within the colony.

6   **SECTION 2.** A. Quartering shall be defined as the housing or lodging of any soldier or  
7                   officer of His Majesty's army within a private or public dwelling.

8                   B. During times of peace, no soldier shall be quartered within the residence of any  
9                   private citizen without the expressed consent of the homeowner.

10                  C. During times of conflict or threat, the Governor of Virginia may call for lawful  
11                  quartering of soldiers; however, inns, taverns, or other public houses shall be  
12                  utilized before private dwellings.

13                  D. Any citizen whose home is lawfully used for quartering shall be compensated  
14                  for the lodging and provisions provided.

15                  E. Any soldier or officer who violates this regulation shall be subject to review and  
16                  discipline under the authority of the Governor and Commander of His Majesty's  
17                  Forces.

18                  **SECTION 3.**   The implementation and oversight of this bill shall be conducted by the Board of  
19                  Trade and Plantations in coordination with the Governor of Virginia. The Board  
20                  ensure lawful quartering, fair compensation and adherence to colonial  
21                  regulations, reporting annually to his majesty.

22                  **SECTION 4.**   This bill will be enacted upon King George III's approval. All laws in conflict  
23                  with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

## A RESOLUTION TO REFORM COLONIAL TRADE POLICIES TO PROMOTE PROSPERITY WHILE MAINTAINING IMPERIAL UNITY

LINE 1: **WHEREAS,** CURRENT NAVIGATION ACTS AND TRADE RESTRICTIONS PREVENT THE COLONIES  
LINE 2: FROM FREELY EXPORTING GOODS, LIMITING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND  
LINE 3: STRAINING RELATIONS WITH GREAT BRITAIN; AND  
LINE 4:  
LINE 5: **WHEREAS,** THE COLONIES PRODUCE SURPLUS NON-STRATEGIC GOODS SUCH AS TIMBER, FISH,  
LINE 6: AND GRAIN THAT COULD BE SOLD TO FOREIGN MARKETS WITHOUT UNDERMINING  
LINE 7: IMPERIAL SECURITY OR INTERESTS; AND  
LINE 8:  
LINE 9: **WHEREAS,** OVERLY RESTRICTIVE TRADE LAWS HARM BOTH COLONIAL MERCHANTS AND  
LINE 10: BRITISH MANUFACTURERS BY REDUCING TOTAL ECONOMIC GROWTH AND INCREASING  
LINE 11: SMUGGLING RATHER THAN ENCOURAGING LEGAL COMMERCE; AND  
LINE 12:  
LINE 13: **WHEREAS,** LOYALISM AND UNITY WITH THE CROWN REMAIN VALUED IN THE COLONIES,  
LINE 14: BUT PROSPERITY AND FAIR TRADE ARE ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAINING MUTUAL  
LINE 15: TRUST AND AVOIDING UNREST; AND  
LINE 16:  
LINE 17: **WHEREAS,** A CLEAR AND FAIR METHOD OF DETERMINING WHICH GOODS ARE “STRATEGIC”  
LINE 18: AND RESERVED FOR CROWN-EXCLUSIVE TRADE WILL PREVENT CONFUSION, PROTECT  
LINE 19: DEFENSE, AND ENSURE CONSISTENT ENFORCEMENT; THEREFORE, BE IT  
LINE 20:  
LINE 21: **RESOLVED,** THE COLONIAL LEGISLATURES JOINTLY PETITION HIS MAJESTY THE KING AND  
LINE 22: PARLIAMENT TO ALLOW COLONIAL MERCHANTS TO TRADE NON-STRATEGIC GOODS  
LINE 23: WITH FOREIGN NATIONS, PROVIDED DUTIES ARE PAID TO THE CROWN AND SUBJECT  
LINE 24: TO APPROVAL BY A COLONIAL-IMPERIAL TRADE BOARD COMPOSED OF:  
LINE 25: 3 CROWN-APPOINTED COMMISSIONERS, 3 COLONIAL ASSEMBLY-APPOINTED  
LINE 26: COMMISSIONERS, THE ROYAL GOVERNOR PRESIDING AS TIE-BREAKER.; AND BE IT  
LINE 27:  
LINE 28: **FURTHER RESOLVED,** THIS BOARD SHALL DETERMINE AND PUBLISH WHICH GOODS ARE  
LINE 29: CONSIDERED STRATEGIC (E.G., WEAPONS, GUNPOWDER, NAVAL STORES ESSENTIAL TO  
LINE 30: ROYAL NAVY USE) AND WHICH GOODS MAY BE TRADED FREELY, SUBJECT TO  
LINE 31: DUTIES AND CUSTOMS INSPECTIONS.  
LINE 32:  
LINE 33: RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,  
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LINE 35:

CONNOR PRECIADO

LINE 36:

COSBY HIGH SCHOOL

# An Act Against Barbarous Practices in Punishment

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

**SECTION 1.** The punishment of crimes through extreme human mutilation or maiming, antemortem or postmortem, shall be abolished in all of the Colony of Virginia. Punishment for such crimes that solely rely on human mutilation or maiming must be transitioned into a system of indentured servitude or be given a fine. All other forms of mutilation or maiming that are actions in addition to other criminal punishments will be stricken from the courts as an option for punishment or burial treatment.

**SECTION 2.** A. For the purposes of this act, extreme human mutilation or maiming shall include but is not limited to actions that burn, severely cut (including extreme flogging), dismember, decapitate, or otherwise permanently damage the human body in a barbarous manner.

B. For the purposes of this act, the “benefit of the clergy” will be modified to no longer include the branding of one’s forehead, but instead the tattooing of one’s wrist and a red ribbon, no smaller than 2 inches by 2 inches, sewn onto the upper hem or lapel of their attire.

C. For the purposes of this act, punishments that solely rely on mutilation or maiming shall be defined as any punishment which only includes the extreme human mutilation as defined above and no other punishment, such as the slitting of the nose or nailing of the ears.

D. For the purposes of this act, punishments that use maiming or mutilation in addition to another punishment will be defined as an act which adds the barbarous action after or during another form of punishment, such as post hanging quartering (the dismemberment of a body).

**SECTION 3.** The Governor’s Council and County leadership will enforce all aspects and procedures regarding this legislation.

- 28                   A. County leadership will be the chief enforcement body of the  
29                   transition into indentured servitude or fining. The local laws and  
30                   courts will determine the tenure length or amount.
- 31                   B. All counties, courts, or groups that are found in violation of the law  
32                   will be fined 5,000 pounds of tobacco or 600 shillings per offense.
- 33   **SECTION 4.**   This legislation will take effect upon passage within the General  
34                   Assembly, approval by the Royal Governor, and approval by the Privy  
35                   Council. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null  
36                   and void.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Burgess Josh Brown*

# A Bill to Regulate the Use of Writs of Assistance to Protect Both Trade and Liberty

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE VIRGINIA HOUSE OF BURGESSES HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The use of *Writs of Assistance* in the Colony of Virginia shall be subject to  
3 judicial review and time limitation to ensure both the enforcement of  
4 lawful trade regulations and the protection of colonial rights against  
5 unreasonable searches.

6 **SECTION 2.** For the purposes of this legislation: “Writ of Assistance” shall be defined  
7 as a general search warrant granted by royal or colonial courts  
8 authorizing customs officers to search private property for smuggled  
9 goods. “Judicial review” shall mean the approval of such writs by a  
10 colonial judge upon demonstration of probable cause. “Time limitation”  
11 shall refer to the period of six months, after which the writ shall expire  
12 unless renewed upon further review.

13 **SECTION 3.** The Colonial Court of Virginia shall oversee all applications for and  
14 renewals of Writs of Assistance.

15 A. Customs officers must present evidence of suspicion before a judge  
16 prior to obtaining a writ.

17 B. Violations of these terms by officers shall result in revocation of  
18 authority to conduct further searches and fines to be determined by  
19 the Court.

20 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1, 1765. All laws in conflict with  
21 this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Representative Shayni Gogineni from Clover Hill High School.*

# A Bill to Establish Equal Access in Elections to the House of Burgesses for Equal Representation

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1   **SECTION 1.**   No candidate running for election to serve as a Burgess in the General  
2                   Assembly shall, during the space of sixty days preceding the poll, provide,  
3                   offer, or cause to be provided any entertainment, drink, or victuals for the  
4                   purpose of gaining votes or favor. Furthermore, candidates will no longer  
5                   be required to hold property to run for election to the House of Burgesses.
- 6   **SECTION 2.**   Property shall be defined as legally owned land which may or may not  
7                   contain buildings, dwellings, or permanent fixtures such as mills, barns,  
8                   fences, etc.
- 9   **SECTION 3.**   The justices of the county court, together with the county sheriff, shall be  
10                  charged with the execution of this Act.
- 11                  A. Any candidate found in violation of this legislation shall be disqualified  
12                  from the current and all future Burgess elections and shall pay a fine of  
13                  one hundred pounds sterling to the county treasury.
- 14 **SECTION 4.**   This legislation will take effect immediately upon passage. All laws in  
15                  conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

# A Resolution to Petition the Crown to Issue a Writ of Assistance to Capture and Prosecute The Paxton Boys

1   **WHEREAS,**       The radical militant vigilante group recognized as “The Paxton Boys” are  
2   suspected for the murders of twenty innocent Susquehannock Indians.

3   **WHEREAS,**       Due to sympathy and support from local colonists in direct opposition to  
4   proclamations from the honorable governor John Penn of Pennsylvania, The Paxton Boys have  
5   evaded justice and legal recourse for their actions.

6   **WHEREAS,**       To ensure future stability of relations with the Susquehannock Indians,  
7   initiative must be taken to see these dangerous individuals punished for their illegal action.

8   **RESOLVED,**       Those here assembled immediately move to petition that a writ of assistance  
9   be granted to any officer in the Pennsylvania colony to uncover and arrest the radical  
10  vigilante group known as “The Paxton Boys” if found guilty by the courts.

*Respectfully submitted by Nicolas Shipley*