ANNO TRICESIMO OCTAVO

# GEORGII III. REGIS.

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## CAP. LXIX.

An Act for allowing Gold Wares to be manufactured at a Standard lower than is now allowed by Law.

[21ſt *June* 1798.]

Preamble.

WHEREAS it would be for the Advantage of the Manufactures of Gold in this Kingdom, that Gold of an inferior Standard to what is now allowed by Law ſhould be permitted to be uſed for the ſame: May it therefore pleaſe Your Majeſty that it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty, by and with the Advice and Conſent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this preſent Parliament aſſembled, and by the Authority of the ſame, That, from and after the Firſt Day of *October* One thouſand ſeven hundred and ninety-eight, it ſhall be lawful for any Goldſmith, or other Perſon making, trading, or dealing in Gold Wares in *Great Britain*, to work or make, or cauſe or procure to be wrought or made, any Gold Veſſel, Plate, or Manufacture of Gold whatſoever, of the Standard of Eighteen Carats of Fine Gold in every Pound Weight Troy, and to ſell, exchange, or expoſe to Sale, or export out of this Kingdom, any Gold Veſſel, Plate, or Manufacture of Gold whatſoever, of the Standard of Eighteen Carats of Fine Gold in every Pound Weight Troy; any Thing contained in any Act or Acts of Parliament to the contrary notwithſtanding.

From *Oct.* 1, 1798, Gold may be manufactured for Sale or Exportation of the Standard of 18 Carats in a Pound Troy.

II. And be it further enacted, That, from and after the ſaid Firſt Day of *October* One thouſand ſeven hundred and ninety-eight, no Perſon whatever ſhall ſell, exchange, or expoſe to Sale, or export out of this Kingdom,

Such manufactured Gold not to be expoſed for Sale, ſold, or exported, until marked, on Penalty of 10*l.*

Kingdom, or cauſe or procure to be ſold, exchanged, or expoſed to Sale, or exported out of this Kingdom, any Gold Veſſel, Plate, or Manufacture of Gold, made after the ſaid Firſt Day of *October* One thouſand ſeven hundred and ninety-eight, of the Standard of Eighteen Carats of Fine Gold in every Pound Weight Troy, until ſuch Veſſel, Plate, or Manufacture, ſhall be marked with the new Mark as follows; that is to ſay, with the Mark of a Crown and the Figures 18, inſtead of the Mark of the Lion Paſſant, upon Pain that every ſuch Perſon ſhall, for every ſuch Offence, forfeit and pay the Sum of Ten Pounds.

The Company of Goldſmiths in *London, etc.* may aſſay and mark ſuch manufactured Gold as now authorized by Law, except as to the Mark.

III. And be it further enacted, That it ſhall be lawful for the reſpective Companies of Goldſmiths in *London*, *Edinburgh*, *Birmingham*, and *Sheffield*, and the Wardens and Aſſayer or Aſſayers of Gold at *York*, *Exeter*, *Briſtol*, *Cheſter*, *Norwich*, and *Newcaſtle upon Tyne*, being reſpectively duly authorized according to the Laws in force on and immediately before the paſſing of this Act, to touch, aſſay, and mark, with the Mark herein-before directed to be uſed, any Gold Veſſel, Gold Plate, or Manufacture of Gold, made and wrought after the ſaid Firſt Day of *October* One thouſand ſeven hundred and ninety-eight, of the Standard of Eighteen Carats of Fine Gold in every Pound Weight Troy, of Gold brought to them reſpectively to be touched, aſſayed, or marked, in like Manner and under the like Regulations, except as to the Mark herein directed to be uſed, inſtead of the Mark of the Lion Paſſant, as they reſpectively are authorized by the Laws in force on and immediately before the paſſing of this Act, to touch, aſſay, or mark, any Gold Veſſel, Gold Plate, or Manufacture of Gold, of the Standard of Twenty-two Carats of Fine Gold in every Pound Weight Troy.

Act not to prevent the manufacturing of Gold of the Standard of 22 Carats in the Pound Troy

IV. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That nothing in this Act contained ſhall be conſtrued to extend to prohibit the making, ſelling, exchanging, expoſing to Sale, or exporting out of this Kingdom, any Gold Veſſels, Plate, or Manufactures of Gold whatever, of the Standard of Twenty-two Carats of Fine Gold in every Pound Weight Troy, in the Manner directed by any Law in force on and immediately before the paſſing of this Act.

Nor to authorize the aſſaying with the Mark uſed before the paſſing of this Act, any Gold Manufacture of lower Standard than 22 Carats in the Pound Troy.

V. Provided alſo, and be it further enacted, That nothing herein contained ſhall be conſtrued to authorize any Perſon to touch, aſſay, or mark, with the Mark directed to be uſed by the Laws in force at and immediately before the paſſing of this Act, any Gold Veſſel, Gold Plate, or Manufacture of Gold, made and wrought of a lower Standard than the Standard of Twenty-two Carats of Fine Gold in every Pound Weight Troy of Gold.

Penalty of 50*l.* for making, ſelling, or exporting manufactured Gold not marked with One of the Marks required by Law.

VI. And be it further enacted, That if any Perſon ſhall, from and after the ſaid Firſt Day of *October* One thouſand ſeven hundred and ninety-eight, work or make, or cauſe or procure to be wrought or made, or ſhall ſell, exchange, or expoſe to Sale, or export out of this Kingdom, or cauſe or procure to be ſold, exchanged, or expoſed to Sale, or exported out of this Kingdom, any Gold Veſſel, Plate, or Manufacture of Gold, not being duly marked with One of the Marks by Law required, to denote One of the reſpective Standards of Twenty-two or Eighteen Carats

Carats of Fine Gold in every Pound Weight Troy, every ſuch Perſon ſhall, for every ſuch Offence, forfeit and pay the Sum of Fifty Pounds.

Perſons counterfeiting Marks, *etc.* or ſelling, or exporting Articles with ſuch counterfeit Marks, *etc.* to be tranſported for Seven Years.

VII. And be it further enacted, That, from and after the ſaid Firſt Day of *October* One thouſand ſeven hundred and ninety-eight, if any Perſon ſhall forge, caſt, or counterfeit, or cauſe or procure to be caſt, forged, or counterfeited, the Mark or Stamp uſed, or directed to be uſed in purſuance of this Act, for the marking or ſtamping of Gold Plate by the Company of Goldſmiths in *London* or *Edinburgh*, or the *Birmingham* or *Sheffield* Company, or by the Wardens or Aſſayer or Aſſayers at *York*, *Exeter*, *Briſtol*, *Cheſter*, *Norwich*, or *Newcaſtle upon Tyne*, or any or either of them, or ſhall caſt, forge, or counterfeit, or ſhall cauſe or procure to be caſt, forged, or counterfeited, any Mark, Stamp, or Impreſſion, in Imitation of or to reſemble any Mark, Stamp, or Impreſſion, made or to be made with any Mark or Stamp uſed or to be uſed as aforeſaid, by the ſaid Company of Goldſmiths in *London* or *Edinburgh*, or by the ſaid *Birmingham* or *Sheffield* Companies, or by the ſaid Wardens or Aſſayer or Aſſayers, or any or either of them, or ſhall mark or ſtamp, or cauſe or procure to be marked or ſtamped, any wrought Plate of Gold, or any Wares of Silver, Braſs, or other Metal, gilt over and reſembling Plate of Gold, with any Mark or Stamp which hath been or ſhall be forged or counterfeited, at any Time, (either before, on, or after, the ſaid Firſt Day of *October* One thouſand ſeven hundred and ninety-eight), in Imitation of or to reſemble any Mark or Stamp uſed or to be uſed as aforeſaid, by the ſaid Company of Goldſmiths in *London* or *Edinburgh*, or by the ſaid *Birmingham* or *Sheffield* Companies, or by the ſaid Wardens or Aſſayer or Aſſayers, or any or either of them, or ſhall tranſpoſe or remove, or cauſe or procure to be tranſpoſed or removed, from One Piece of wrought Plate to another, or to any Veſſel of Silver, Braſs, or other Metal as aforeſaid, any Mark, Stamp, or Impreſſion, made or to be made by or with any Mark or Stamp uſed or to be uſed as aforeſaid, by the ſaid Company of Goldſmiths in *London* or *Edinburgh*, or by the ſaid *Birmingham* or *Sheffield* Companies, or by the ſaid Wardens or Aſſayer or Aſſayers, or any or either of them, or ſhall ſell, exchange, or expoſe to Sale, or export out of this Kingdom, any wrought Plate of Gold, or any Veſſel of Silver, Braſs, or other Metal as aforeſaid, with any ſuch forged or counterfeit Mark, Stamp, or Impreſſion thereon, or any Mark, Stamp, or Impreſſion, which hath been or ſhall be tranſpoſed or removed from any other Piece of Plate, knowing ſuch Mark, Stamp, or Impreſſion, to be forged, counterfeited, or tranſpoſed, or removed as aforeſaid, or ſhall wilfully or knowingly have or be poſſeſſed of any Mark or Stamp which hath been or ſhall be forged or counterfeited, in Imitation of and to reſemble any Mark or Stamp uſed or to be uſed as aforeſaid, by the ſaid Company of Goldſmiths in *London* or *Edinburgh*, or by the ſaid *Birmingham* and *Sheffield* Companies, or by the ſaid Wardens, or Aſſayer or Aſſayers, or any or either of them, every ſuch Perſon offending in any ſuch or either of the Caſes aforeſaid, being thereof lawfully convicted, ſhall be adjudged guilty of Felony, and ſhall be tranſported to ſuch Parts beyond the Seas, as His Majeſty, with the Advice of His Privy Council, ſhall direct, for the Space of Seven Years.

Manufactured Gold of the Standard of

VIII. And be it further enacted, That all Gold Veſſels, Plate, and Manufactures of Gold whatever, of the Standard of Eighteen Carats of Fine

18 Carats in a Pound Troy to be aſſayed, *etc.* except with the Mark of the Lion Paſſant, as manufactured Gold of the Standard of 22 Carats, and to be ſubject to the like Regulations.

Fine Gold in every Pound Weight Troy, ſhall be touched, aſſayed, and marked with the ſeveral Marks directed to be uſed by this Act, or by any Act or Acts in force on and immediately before the paſſing of this Act, in the marking of Gold Veſſels, Plate, or Manufactures of Gold, except the Mark of the Lion Paſſant, by the like Perſons, at ſuch Places, and under ſuch Powers, Authorities, Rules, and Regulations, and ſhall have and be under ſuch Proviſoes, Exemptions, Qualifications, and Conditions, and ſhall be ſubject to ſuch Penalties and Forfeitures, and to the like Payments and Rewards, Subtractions and Detentions, for or upon touching, aſſaying, and marking the ſame, as Gold Veſſels, Plate, and Manufactures of Gold, of the Standard of Twenty-two Carats of Fine Gold in every Pound Weight Troy, may or ought to be touched, aſſayed, and marked, with the Marks required by the Laws in force as aforeſaid, or have, or are ſubject or liable to by an Act, paſſed in the Twelfth Year of the Reign of His late Majeſty King *George* the Second, intituled, *An Act for the better preventing Frauds and Abuſes in Gold and Silver Wares*, or by any Act or Acts therein recited or referred to, or by any other Act or Acts in force on and immediately before the paſſing of this Act, with relation to Gold Plate wrought, made, or ſold in, or exported out of this Kingdom; and that all the Powers, Authorities, Rules, Proviſions, Penalties, and Forfeitures, Methods, Clauſes, and all other Matters and Things preſcribed or appointed by the ſaid Act of the Twelfth Year of the Reign of His ſaid late Majeſty, or by any Act or Acts therein recited or referred to, or by any other Act or Acts with relation to wrought Gold Plate or Manufactures of Gold of the Standard of Twenty-two Carats of Fine Gold in every Pound Weight Troy, and in force on and immediately before the paſſing of this Act, (except where other Proviſions are expreſsly made by this Act), ſhall be obſerved, practiſed, applied, and put in Execution for the working, making, touching, and aſſaying, all Gold Veſſels, Plate, and Gold Manufactures of the Standard of Eighteen Carats of Fine Gold in every Pound Weight Troy, and in and for the making the ſame according to the Directions of this Act, and in and for the ſelling, exchanging, expoſing to Sale, and exporting the ſame, or any of them; and in and for the Recovery of any Penalties or Forfeitures incurred againſt the Form of the ſaid Acts, or any of them, or of this Act, as fully and effectually as if the ſaid ſeveral Powers, Authorities, Rules, Proviſions, Penalties, and Forfeitures, Methods, Clauſes, Matters, and Things, had been repeated and re-enacted in this Act, and had herein been expreſsly applied to ſuch Gold Veſſels, Plate, and Manufactures of the Standard of Eighteen Carats of Fine Gold in every Pound Weight Troy reſpectively.

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