

The witchcraft act of 1604 (1 Jac. I. c. 12)

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At the Parliament begun
and holden at Westminster the
xix. day of March, in the first yeere of the
Raigne of our most Gracious Soueraigne Lord
IAMES, by the Grace of God of England,
France and Ireland King, Defender
of the Faith, &c. and of Scot-
land the 37.

And there continued vntil the seuenth
day of Iuly 1604. And then proroged vn-
til the 7. of Febr. next following.

To the High pleasure of Almightye God, and
to the weale Publique of this Realme
were enacted as followeth.

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An Acte against Coniura-
tion, Witchcraft, and dealing
with euill and wicked
Spirits.

Chap. XII.

Bee it enacted by the King our So-
ueraigne Lord, the Lords Spiri-
tual and Temporal, and the Com-
mons in this present Parliament
assembled, and by the authoritie
of the same, That the Statute
made in the fift yere of the Reigne
of our late Soueraigne Lady of
most famous and happy memorie
Queene Elizabeth, intituled, An
Acte against Coniurations, In-
chantments, and Witchcrafts, be
from the Feast of S. Michael the
Archangel next comming, for and concerning all offences to be com-
mitted after the same Feast, vtterly repealed. And for the better
restraining the said offences, and more seuerely punishing the same,
Be it further enacted by the authoritie aforesaid, That if any per-
son or persons, after the saide Feast of Saint Michael the Arch-
angel next comming, shall vse, practise, or exercise any Inuocati-
on, or Coniuration, of any euill and wicked spirit, or shall consult,

couenant with, entertaine, employ, feede, or reward, any euill and wicked spirit, to, or for any intent or purpose, or take vp any dead man, woman, or child, out of his, her, or their graue, or any other place, where the dead body resteth, or the skin, bone, or any other part of any dead person, to bee employed or vsed in any maner of Witchcraft, Sorcery, charme or Inchantment, or shall vse, practise, or exercise any Witchcraft, Inchantment, Charme, or Sorcerie, whereby any person shall be killed, destroyed, wasted, consumed, pined, or lamed in his or her body, or any part thereof: That then euery such Offendor or Offendors, their Ayders, Abettors, and Counsellors, being of any the said offences duely and lawful-

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ly conuicted, and attainted, shall suffer paines of death, as a Felon, or Felons, and shall lose the priuiledge and benefit of Clergie, and Sanctuary.

And further, to the intent that all manner of Practise, Vse, or exercise of Witchcraft, Enchantment, Charme, or Sorcery, should be from hencefoorth vtterly auoyded, abolished, and taken away, Be it enacted by the authority of this present Parliament, That if any person or persons, shall from and after the said Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel next comming, take vpon him or them by Witchcraft, Inchantment, Charme, or Sorcerie, to tell, or declare in what place any treasure of Golde, or Siluer, should, or might be found or had in the earth, or other secret places, or where goods or things lost or stollen should be found, or become, or to the intent to prouoke any person to vnlawfull Loue, or whereby any Cattell or Goods of any person shalbe destroyed, wasted or impaired, or to hurt or destroy any person in his, or her body, although the same be not effected and done: That then all and euery such person or persons so offending, and being thereof lawfully conuicted, shall for the said offence suffer imprisonment by the space of one whole yeere, without bayle or mainprise, and once in euery quarter of the sayd yeere, shall in some Market Towne vpon the Market day, or at such time, as any Faire shalbe kept, there stand openly vpon the Pillorie by the space of sixe houres, and there shall openly confesse his or her error and offence. And if any person or persons being once conuicted of the same offences, as is aforesayd, doe eftsoones perpetrate and commit the like offence, That then euery such offendor being of any the sayd offences the second time lawfully and duely conuicted, and attainted, as is aforesayd, shall suffer paines of death as a Felon, or Felons, and shall lose the benefit and priuiledge of Clergie, and Sanctuary. Sauing to the wife of such person as shall offend in any thing contrary to this Act her title of Dower, and also to the heire, and successor of euery such person, his or their titles of inheritance, succession, and other rights, as though no such Attaindor of the Ancestor, or Predecessor had bene made. Prouided alwayes that if the Offendor in any the cases aforesayd, shall happen to be a Peere of the Realme, then his triall therein to be had by his Peeres, as it is vsed in cases of Felony or Treason, and not otherwise.