

A Bill

for new modelling the form of govern-
ment, & for establishing the fundamen-
tal principles thereof in future.

It is proposed that this bill, after cor-
rection by the Convention, shall be re-
ferred by them to the people to be as-
sembled in their respective counties
and that the suffrages of two thirds
of the counties shall be requisite to
establish it.



for new-modelling the form of Government and for
lishing the Fundamental principles thereof in future.

Whereas George Guelf King of Great Britain
and Ireland and Elector of Hanover, heretofore entrusted with the exercise
of the kingly Office in this government hath endeavored to pervert the same
into a detestable and insupportable tyranny;
by putting his negative on laws the most wholesome & necessary for the public good;
by denying to his governors permission to pass laws of immediate & pressing impor-
-tance, unless suspended in their operation for his ~~assent~~^{assent}, and, when so
suspended, neglecting to attend to them for many years;
by refusing to pass certain other laws, unless the persons to be benefited by them
would relinquish the inestimable right of representation in the legislature
by dissolving legislative assemblies repeatedly and continually for opposing with
manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people;
when dissolved, by refusing to call others for a long space of time, thereby leaving
the political system without any legislative head;
by endeavoring to prevent the population of our country, & for that purpose ob-
-vailing the laws for the naturalization of foreigners & raising the condition
~~of the said laws~~
~~of peace, changing and altering the~~
to render the military independent of & superior to the civil power;
by combining with others to subject us to a foreign jurisdiction, giving his as-
-sent to their pretended acts of legislation
for quartering large bodies of troops among us;
for cutting off our trade with all parts of the world;
for imposing taxes on us without our consent;
for depriving us of the benefits of trial by jury;
for transporting us beyond seas to be tried for pretended offences; and
for suspending our own legislatures & declaring themselves invested with
power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever;
by plundering our seas, ravaging our coasts, burning our towns and destru-
-ing the lives of our people;
by inciting insurrections of our fellow subjects with the allurements of forfeiture & confiscation
by prompting our negroes to rise in arms among us; those very negroes whom ~~he hath~~
^{by an inhuman use of his negative he hath}
~~promised to free~~, refused us permission to exclude by law
by endeavoring to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers the merciless Indian sa-
-vages, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of
all ages, sexes, & conditions of existence;

transporting at this time a large army of foreign mercenaries
the works of death, desolation, & tyranny already begun with cruelty
& perfidy so unworthy the head of a civilized nation;
by answering our repeated petitions ^{for redress} with a repetition of injuries;
and finally by abandoning the helm of government and declaring us out of his
allegiance & protection;

by which several acts of misrule the said George Guelf
has forfeited the kingly office and has rendered it necessary for the preservation
of the people that he should be immediately deposed from the same, and divested
of all it's privileges, powers, & prerogatives.

And forasmuch as the public liberty may be more certainly secured by
abolishing an office which all experience hath shewn to be inveterately inimical there-
to, and it will thereupon become further necessary to re-establish such
antient principles as are friendly to the rights of the people and to declare
certain others which may co-operate with and fortify the same in future.

Be it therefore enacted by the authority of the people that the said
George Guelf be, and he hereby is deposed from the
kingly office within this government and absolutely divested of all it's rights,
powers and prerogatives; and that he and his descendants and all
who by or through him, and all other persons whatsoever shall
~~claim or exercise the same~~ and that the said office shall hence
and never more either in name or substance be re-established within

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid that the following fun-
damental laws and principles of government shall henceforth be established.

The Legislative, Executive and Judicial offices shall be kept forever separate,
& no person exercising the one shall be capable of appointment to the others, or to either of them.

I. Legislative.

Legislation shall be exercised by two separate houses, to wit a house
of Representatives and a house of Senators, which shall be called the General
Assembly of Virginia.

The ~~1st~~ house of Representatives shall be composed of persons chosen by the ~~people~~ ^{House of Representatives}
annually on the [1st day of October] and shall meet in General assem-
bly on the [15th day of November] following, and so from time to time on their
own adjournments, or at any other time when summoned by the Administrator
and ~~shall~~ continue sitting so long as they shall think the public service requires.

Vacancies in the said house by death or disqualification shall be filled by
the electors under a warrant from the Speaker of the said house.

All male persons of full age and sane mind having a freehold estate in Electors.
[one fourth of an acre] of land in any town, or in [25] acres of land in the country,