

# List of Major Slave Laws passed in British American colonies following Bacon's Rebellion

(1676-1767)

**\*22 laws passed prior (1619-1676)**

**1676**

In Virginia, black slaves and black and white indentured servants band together to participate in Bacon's Rebellion.

**1680**

The State of Virginia forbids blacks and slaves from bearing arms, prohibits blacks from congregating in large numbers, and mandates harsh punishment for slaves who assault Christians or attempt escape.

**1682**

Virginia declares that all imported black servants are slaves for life.

**1684**

New York makes it illegal for slaves to sell goods.

**1688**

The Pennsylvania Quakers pass the first formal antislavery resolution.

**1691**

Virginia passes the first anti-miscegenation law, forbidding marriages between whites and blacks or whites and Native Americans.

**1691**

Virginia prohibits the manumission of slaves within its borders. Manumitted slaves are forced to leave the colony.

**1691**

South Carolina passes the first comprehensive slave codes.

**1694**

Rice cultivation is introduced into Carolina. Slave importation increases dramatically.

**1696**

The Royal African Trade Company loses its monopoly and New England colonists enter the slave trade.

**1700**

Pennsylvania legalizes slavery.

**1702**

New York passes An Act for Regulating Slaves. Among the prohibitions of this act are meetings of more than three slaves, trading by slaves, and testimony by slaves in court.

**1703**

Massachusetts requires those masters who liberate slaves to provide a bond of 50 pounds or more in the event that the freedman becomes a public charge.

**1703**

Connecticut assigns the punishment of whipping to any slaves who disturb the peace or assault whites.

**1703**

Rhode Island makes it illegal for blacks and Indians to walk at night without passes.

**1705**

The Virginia Slave Code codifies slave status, declaring all non-Christian servants entering the colony to be slaves. It defines all slaves as real estate, acquits masters who kill slaves during punishment, forbids slaves and free colored peoples from physically assaulting white persons, and denies slaves the right to bear arms or move abroad without written permission.

**1705**

New York declares that punishment by execution will be applied to certain runaway slaves.

**1705**

Massachusetts makes marriage and sexual relations between blacks and whites illegal.

**1706**

New York declares blacks, Indians, and slaves who kill white people to be subject to the death penalty.

**1706**

Connecticut requires that Indians, mulattos, and black servants gain permission from their masters to engage in trade.

**1708**

The Southern colonies require militia captains to enlist and train one slave for every white soldier.

**1708**

Rhode Island requires that slaves be accompanied by their masters when visiting the homes of free persons.

**1708**

Blacks outnumber whites in South Carolina.

**1710**

New York forbids blacks, Indians, and mulattos from walking at night without lighted lanterns.

**1711**

Pennsylvania prohibits the importation of blacks and Indians.

**1711**

Rhode Island prohibits the clandestine importation of black and Indian slaves.

**1712**

Pennsylvania prohibits the importation of slaves.

**1712**

An alleged slave revolt in New York City leads to violent outbreaks. Nine whites are killed and eighteen slaves are executed.

**1712**

New York declares it illegal for blacks, Indians, and slaves to murder other blacks, Indians, and slaves.

**1712**

New York forbids freed blacks, Indians, and mulatto slaves from owning real estate and holding property.

**1712**

In Charleston, South Carolina slaves are forbidden from hiring themselves out.

**1715**

Rhode Island legalizes slavery.

**1715**

Maryland declares all slaves entering the province and their descendants to be slaves for life.

**1717**

New York enacts a fugitive slave law.

**1723**

Virginia abolishes manumissions.

**1724**

French Louisiana prohibits slaves from marrying without the permission of their owners.

**1731**

The Spanish reverse a 1730 decision and declare that slaves fleeing to Florida from Carolina will not be sold or returned.

**1732**

Slaves aboard the ship of New Hampshire Captain John Major kill both captain and crew, seizing the vessel and its cargo.

**1733**

Quaker Elihu Coleman's A Testimony against That Anti-Christian Practice of MAKING SLAVES OF MEN is published.

**1735**

Under an English law Georgia prohibits the importation and use of black slaves.

**1735**

Georgia petitions Britain for the legalization of slavery.

**1735**

Louis XV, King of France, declares that when an enslaved woman gives birth to the child of a free man, neither mother nor child can be sold. Further, after a certain time, mother and child will be freed.

**1738**

Georgia's trustees permit the importation of black slaves.

**1738**

Spanish Florida promises freedom and land to runaway slaves.

**1739**

Slaves in Stono, South Carolina rebel, sacking and burning an armory and killing whites. The colonial militia puts an end to the rebellion before slaves are able to reach freedom in Florida.

**1740**

South Carolina passes the comprehensive Negro Act, making it illegal for slaves to move abroad, assemble in groups, raise food, earn money, and learn to read English. Owners are permitted to kill rebellious slaves if necessary.

**1740**

Georgia and Carolina attempt to invade Florida in retaliation for the territory's policy toward runaways.

**1749**

Georgia repeals its prohibition and permits the importation of black slaves.

**1758**

Pennsylvania Quakers forbid their members from owning slaves or participating in the slave trade.

**1760**

New Jersey prohibits the enlistment of slaves in the militia without their master's permission.

**1767**

The Virginia House of Burgess boycotts the British slave trade in protest of the Townsend Acts. Georgia and the Carolinas follow suit.