



# Justices of the Peace Act 1361

1361 CHAPTER 1 34 Edw 3

## I Who shall be Justices of the Peace. Their Jurisdiction over Offenders; Rioters; Barrators; They may take Surety for good Behaviour.

First, That in every County of England shall be assigned for the keeping of the Peace, one Lord, and with him three or four of the most worthy in the County, with some learned in the Law, and they shall have Power to restrain the Offenders, Rioters, and all other Barators, and to pursue, arrest, take, and chastise them according their Trespass or Offence; and to cause them to be imprisoned and duly punished according to the Law and Customs of the Realm, and according to that which to them shall seem best to do by their Discretions and good Advisement; . . . <sup>F1</sup>; and to take and arrest all those that they may find by Indictment, or by Suspicion, and to put them in Prison; and to take of all them that be [<sup>X1</sup>not] of good Fame, where they shall be found, sufficient Surety and Mainprise of their good Behaviour towards the King and his People, and the other duly to punish; to the Intent that the People be not by such Rioters or Rebels troubled nor endamaged, nor the Peace blemished, nor Merchants nor other passing by the Highways of the Realm disturbed, nor [<sup>X2</sup>put in the Peril which may happen] of such Offenders: . . . <sup>F2</sup>

Statuti f'c'm in p'liamto tento apud Westm; anno xxxiiij<sup>to</sup>. In Margine Rotuli.

Ex magna Rot. Stat. in Turri.  
Lond. m. 10.

Ces sont les choses queles nre Seign' le Roi Prelatz Seign's & la comune ont ordinez en cest p'ent p'ement, tenuz a Westminster le Dymange p'chein devant la feste de la Corvion de Saint Paul, a tenir & publier o'vement pny le Roialme: Cotesavoient:

P'riement q' en chescun Countee Dengleterre soient assignez, p' la garde de la p'ces, un Seign' & ovesq' lui trois ou quatre des meulz vauz du Countee, ensemblement ovez aucuns sages de la ley, & ceent poer de restrindre les mesfessours, riotors, & toutz au'z baretors, & de les p'sair, arrestier, phdre, chastier, selonc leur fessu ou mesp'ision; & de faire emprisonner, & daement punir

selonc la ley & custumes du Roialme. & selonc ce q'ils v'ont meulz affaire p' lo' discretions & bon avisenent; . . . & de phdre & arester touz ceux q'ls p'ront trov' p'endement, ou p' susp'icion & les mettre en prisone & de phdre de touz ceux (q' sont) de bone fame, ou ds sont trov'z, souffisant surete & meingrie de lo' bon port, de's le Roi & son poeple, & les au'z daement punir; au, finq' le poeple ne soit p' lieux riotors troblez, ne daement me' la p'ces enblemy, ne marchantz nau'z passantz p' les hautes chemyns du Roialme desorbierz ne abusez du pil q' p'ra avenir de leurs mesfessours. . . .<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Cf. the text in *Statute of Westminster II*, *ME: King Henry III and the 1252 Parliament*.

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**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Justices of the Peace Act 1361, Section I. (See end of Document for details)

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#### **Editorial Information**

- X1** All Translations read thus.
- X2** Variant reading of the text noted in *The Statutes of the Realm* as follows: put in fear by peril which might happen
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#### **Textual Amendments**

- F1** Words repealed by [Statute Law Revision Act 1948 \(c. 62\)](#)
- F2** Words repealed by [Statute Law Revision Act 1948 \(c. 62\)](#) and [Criminal Law Act 1967 \(c. 58\)](#), **Sch. 3 Pt. II**

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Justices of the Peace Act 1361, Section I.