

## ENGLISH BILL OF RIGHTS (1689)

### Provisions of the Act, excerpts

The Declaration of Right was in December 1689 enacted in an Act of Parliament, the Bill of Rights 1689. The Act asserted "certain ancient rights and liberties" by declaring:

- laws should not be dispensed with or suspended without the consent of Parliament;
- no taxes should be levied without the authority of Parliament;
- the right to petition the monarch should be without fear of retribution;
- no standing army may be maintained during peacetime without the consent of Parliament;
- subjects who are Protestants may bear arms for their defense as permitted by law;
- the election of members of Parliament should be free;
- the freedom of speech and debates or proceedings in Parliament should not to be impeached or questioned in any court or place out of Parliament;
- excessive bail should not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishment inflicted;
- jurors should be duly impaneled and returned and jurors in high treason trials should be freeholders;
- promises of fines or forfeitures before conviction are void;
- Parliaments should be held frequently.

*Bill of Rights 1689. (n.d.). In Wikipedia. Retrieved from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill\\_of\\_Rights\\_1689](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_of_Rights_1689)*