

Liber  
W H & L

### An Act for secureing Creditors

Whereas there are now prisons built in every County And forasmuch as they were intended for the safe keeping of Prisoners that Creditors might be secured to have their debts paid after Judgment & Execucōn served And that Criminalls might be brought to Condigne Punishment Bee itt Enacted by the Right Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Lord Proprietary by and with the advice and Consent of the upper and lower houses of this present Generall Assembly That every Sherriffe within this Province that shall haue any Prisoner comitted to his Charg in any Criminall case whatsoever shall safe keepe the said Prisoner or prisoners vntill they be delivered by due Course of Law And if any sherriffe shall suffer any such Prisoners to Escape voluntarily or negligently shall forfeit twenty thousand pounds of Tobacco to the Right Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Lord Proprietary the one halfe thereof to be Employed in strengthening the prison of the County the other towards the maintenance of poore prisoners.

Bee itt further Enacted by the Authority & by and with the aduice and Consent aforesaid That when any person or persons are taken by the severall & Respective sherriffes of the severall and Respective Counties in Execucōn for debt or vpon other meane processe, the said severall & Respective sherriffes shall safely keepe and restraine the said prisoners by such meanes & in such manner as prisoners in England by the Law of England are and may be Restrained And if any sherriffe shall voluntarily or negligently suffer any such prisoners to Escape such sherriffe shall pay the debt or Damage to the person who obtained Iudgment & sued out Execucōn or other meane processe against the said Prisoner And if any person imprisoned for ffelony or other Crime deserving death shall attempt or endeavour to break the prison shall imediately thereupon be Secured by the Sherriffe or Iaoler in Irons And any person soe imprisoned for felony or other Crime deserving death as aforesaid that shall breake Prison shall be punished with death This Act to endure for three yeares or to The End of the next Generall Assembly which shall first happen.

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An Act for Repeale of certain lawes and alsoe for ascertaining what Lawes are in force within this Province.

The Burgesses & Delegates of this present Generall Assembly takeing into their most Serious consideracōn the many great mischiefes Errors & inconveniencies which haue and may happen to many the good people of this Province by the many Errors that are Comitted in the severall Courts & by the severall