

## ACTS OF ASSEMBLY PASSED IN JUNE 1752

Liber B.L.C. At a Session of Assembly begun and held at the City of An-  
p. 555 napolis the third day of June in the second year of the Dominion  
of the Right Honourable Frederick Absolute Lord and Proprietary  
of the Province of Maryland and Avalon Lord Baron of Baltimore  
&c.<sup>a</sup> Annoq̄ Domini 1752 and ending the twenty third day of the  
same Month.

The following Laws were Enacted and Assented to by the Honble  
Benja Tasker Esq.<sup>r</sup> President.

No. 1 An Act to prevent disabled and superannuated Slaves being set  
free, or the Manumission of Slaves by any last Will or Testa-  
ment.

[Preamble] Whereas sundry Persons of this Province have set disabled  
and superannuated Slaves free who have either perished through  
Want, or otherwise become a Burthen to others: And inasmuch  
as giving Freedom to Slaves, by any last Will and Testament, may  
be attended with many Evils; it is therefore humbly prayed that it  
may be Enacted;

[Slaves who  
are old, and  
incapable of  
working not  
to be set at  
Liberty; but  
to be pro-  
vided for by  
the Owner.] And be it Enacted by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary,  
by and with the Advice and Consent of his Lordship's President,  
and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the Authority  
of the same, That it shall not be lawful for any Person or Persons  
within this Province, to give or grant Freedom to any Slave or  
Slaves disabled to work, or gain a sufficient Livelihood and Main-  
tainance; but that in all such Cases, any Master, Mistress, or Owner  
of such Slave or Slaves, at the proper Cost and Charge of such  
Master, Mistress, or other Person owning such Slave or Slaves, shall  
support and maintain such Slave or Slaves, during the natural Life  
or Lives of such Slave or Slaves, in Food and Cloathing fitting and  
needful for such Slave or Slaves; whereby he, she, or they may not  
become a Burthen to others, or perish through Want, to the great  
Scandal of Christian Society.

[No Slaves  
to be set free  
by any last  
Will and  
Testament.] And be it further Enacted, That it shall not be lawful for any  
Person or Persons within this Province, by any verbal Order, or  
by his, her, or their last Will and Testament, or by any other Instru-  
ment of Writing, in his, her, or their last Sickness, whereof he, she,  
or they shall die, to give or grant Freedom to any Slave or Slaves:  
And if any Person or Persons, after the Time aforesaid, shall, by  
any verbal Order, or by his, her, or their last Will and Testament,  
or by any other Writing or Instrument, in his, her, or their last  
Sickness whereof he, she, or they shall die, give Freedom to any  
Slave or Slaves, such Order, Will, or other Writing shall be void  
and of no Effect, so far as relates to such Freedom or Manumission  
only.