

*An Act Restraining Victuallers and Keepers of Publick Houses
from Entertaining Sailors, to the Prejudice of Trade and
Commerce.* D^o 41.

WHEREAS the Masters and Commanders of the several Merchant Ships trading into this Province, and the several Merchants and Traders therein, have represented unto this General Assembly, That several Persons keeping Victualling Houses, or Publick Houses of Entertainment, for Lucre and Gain, do make it their Practice to draw in and entertain the Seamen belonging to the several Ships, and give them too great Credit, not only to the Ruin of them, their Wives and Children, but also to the Hindrance of the Ships Loading, whereby the Charges of the Ships are greatly augmented, and Trade in general delayed and discouraged; For the Prevention whereof, Be it Enacted, by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of Her Majesty's President, Council, and Assembly of this Province, and the Authority of the same, That if any Victualler or Keeper of any Publick House within this Province, shall, after the First Day of *January* next, trust any Seafaring Man, Sailor or Seaman, not being an Inhabitant of this Province, and generally residing in the same, for any Sum or Sums of Money above the Value of Five Shillings, in any Voyage, without Leave or Licence from the Commander of the Ship or Vessel, to which he belongs, upon Pain of losing their Debt. And if such Victualler, or other Person keeping a Publick House, shall take any Bond, Bill, Note, or Bill of Exchange, or any other Specialty or Obligation, for any Debt contracted by any Sailor or Seaman belonging to any Ship or Vessel, and not being an Inhabitant, as aforesaid, such Bond, Bill, Note, or Bill of Exchange, or other Specialty or Obligation, shall be Void and of no Effect.

AND be it further Enacted by the Authority, Advice and Consent aforesaid, That if any Victualler or Keeper of any Publick House, as aforesaid, shall entertain or harbour any Sailor or Seaman, without Licence from the Master or Commander of the Ship or Vessel to which he belongs, to the Delay and Hindrance of the Business of such Ship or Vessel, or the Commander thereof, such Victualler or Keeper of a Publick House, or House of Entertainment, shall be liable to, and incur the Pains and Penalties in the Act of Assembly of this Province inflicted on such as entertain and deal with Servants; Any Law, Statute, Usage, or Custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

PROVIDED, That this Act, or any thing therein contained, shall not extend to the Master or Chief Mate of any Ship or Vessel.

Pass'd November 15th, 1712.

Revis'd June 3^d, 1715.