

Levy, due from such Person or Persons, but will, notwithstanding the same Debt being due from the Sheriff, take the Body or Goods of such Person in Execution, shall be liable to be prosecuted in an Action of Trespass, or False Imprisonment, as the Case shall require.

AND be it further Enacted, That the High Sheriff of every respective County shall be liable to be sued, as aforesaid, for his own, or any of his Deputy's, Offence or Offences against this Act, and the Debts mentioned, which the Sheriffs may owe to any Inhabitant, are to be understood of such Debts, as are assigned to the Inhabitants in the Publick County, or Parish Levy, or Forty *per* Pole, as aforesaid; or due from the High Sheriff, by Bill, Bond, Note, or Account proved; any Law, Usage, or Custom, to the contrary notwithstanding.

AND whereas there have been divers great Complaints from several Parts of this Province to this General Assembly of several Sheriffs and Sub-Sheriffs, that have exacted and extorted great Sums of Tobacco, above their due and lawful Fees ascertained by the Acts of Assembly of this Province, from several the Inhabitants thereof: And tho' the Laws of this Province have inflicted a severe Penalty upon any Officer that shall charge and receive more than his due Fees; yet the said Officers have most cunningly and craftily evaded the said Laws, by taking Bills or Writings Obligatory, without ever delivering any Account, signed under their Hands, as the Law directs, so that the Party grieved cannot sufficiently prove the said Extortion, and is thereby left without Remedy: For Prevention whereof, Be it Enacted by the Authority, Advice, and Consent aforesaid, That no Sheriff or Sub-Sheriff, within this Province, after the Publication of this Act, in their several and respective Counties wherein they dwell, shall take any Bond, Bill, or any other Writing Obligatory, of any Person or Persons, upon any Pretence whatsoever, without Indorsing the Account on the Back of the said Bond, Bill, or Writing Obligatory, for which the same was passed. And if any Sheriff or Sub-Sheriff, within this Province, shall, during the time that he remains in his Place or Office, upon any Pretence whatsoever, take any Bill, Bond, or Writing, Obligatory, without Indorsing the Account on the Back of the said Bond, Bill, or Writing Obligatory, as aforesaid, by which it may appear upon what Consideration the same was taken, the said Bond, Bill, or Writing Obligatory, shall be Void, and of no Effect; and the Officer or Officers that took the same shall lose his Debt, and for ever be debarred of suing any other Action for the Recovery of the same; any Law, Statute, or Usage, to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

AND that whereas the said Officers are prohibited from taking Bills, upon any Pretence whatsoever, otherwise than as is directed by this Act, during the time they remain in Office: To the Intent the said Officers may receive no Damage by the Act of Assembly for the Limitation of Actions; Be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the time the said Officers remain in Office shall not be reckoned or accounted in the Act of Limitation.

AND that whereas it hath been the Practice of several Sheriffs of this Province, where a Person hath been in Prison at the Suit of Two or Three several Persons, or hath lain for the Satisfaction of Two or more several Judgments, for the Sheriff to charge Imprisonment Fees for each Action or Judgment; For Prevention whereof for the future, Be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall not be lawful for any Sheriff within this Province, to take any more Fees for keeping any Prisoner, tho' he be imprisoned at the Suit of Two or Three several Persons, or for several Judgments, than if he was imprisoned only at One Suit, or for One Cause, under the Pains and Penalties mentioned in the Act of Limitation of Officers Fees against the Offenders thereof.

AND be it further Enacted, That a certain Act of Assembly of this Province, Intituled, *An Act Restraining the Extortions of Sheriffs, Sub-Sheriffs, and Deputy Commissaries*; made at a Session of Assembly, begun and held at the City of
Annapolis,