

The CHURCH ACT.

A C T S

Passed by the

General Assembly

O F

M A R Y L A N D.

An Act for the Establishment of Religious Worship in this Province according to the Church of England; and for the Maintenance of Ministers.

N<sup>o</sup> I.

Laws of Maryland, p. 7.

I. **AS** much as in a well-grounded Christian Commonwealth, Matters concerning Religion and the Honour of God, ought in the first place to be taken into Consideration, and honest Endeavours to attain such good Ends countenanced and encouraged, as being not only most acceptable to God, but the best Way and Means to obtain his Mercy, and a Blessing upon a People or Country: **Be it therefore Enacted** by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of this present General Assembly, and by the Authority of the same, That the *Book of Common Prayer and Administration of the Sacraments, and other Rites and Ceremonies of the Church, according to the Use of the Church of England, the Psalter or Psalms of David, and Morning and Evening Prayer*, therein contained, be solemnly read by all and every Minister or Reader in every Church which now is, or hereafter shall be settled and established within this Province: And that all Congregations and Places for the publick Worship, according to the Usage of the Church of England, within this Province, for the Maintenance of whose Ministers, and of the Persons officiating therein, any certain Income or Revenue is, or shall, by the Laws of this Province, be established, and enjoined to be raised or paid, shall be deemed settled and established Churches.

The Common Prayer established in this Province.

Places of publick Worship.