

At a Session of ASSEMBLY, begun and held at the City of ANNAPOLIS, in MARYLAND, the Twenty First Day of May, 1730, the following LAWS were Enacted.

An ACT for Improving the Staple of TOBACCO; and for continuing Part of an Act ascertaining the Gauge and Tare of Tobacco-Hogsheads; and to prevent cropping, cutting, and defacing Tobacco taken on board Ships or Vessels upon Freight; and for laying Impositions on Tobacco per the Hogshead, for the Support of Government; and for the encouraging Settlements in this Province, by ascertaining the Manner of paying his Lordship's Alienation Fines and Quit-Rents, for the Term therein proposed; and for the taking off the Three-pence per Hogshead formerly raised for the Publick Charge.

WHEREAS, it is evident to this General Assembly, That unless some Provision be made for the Improvement of the Staple of Tobacco, the People of Maryland, whose present Dependence is on the Produce of that Commodity, must be inevitably reduced to want common Necessaries, or to fall upon some other Ways and Means, however difficult, to supply themselves.

BE IT THEREFORE ENACTED, by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the Advice and Consent of his Lordship's Governour, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the Authority of the same, That every labouring Taxable Person, working in Tobacco, (except such Persons as are herein after-mentioned,) and every Overseer shall have Liberty to tend Six Thousand Tobacco-Plants Yearly, during the Continuance of this Act, and no more: And that every Housekeeper, whether Male or Female, having no Taxables, shall be allowed to tend for him or herself, Ten Thousand Plants, and no more: And every House-keeper, whether Male or Female, having no more than one Taxable, shall be allowed to tend for him or herself, Seven Thousand Plants, and no more: And for such Taxable, the like Number of Plants, and no more: And that every Male Child, from Twelve to Sixteen Years of Age, and every Male Servant within the same Ages, and each Slave, Male or Female, within the same Ages, belonging to any of the fore-mentioned Housekeepers, shall be allowed to tend Three Thousand Plants, and no more: And that every such Housekeeper, having One White Woman Servant, shall be allowed to tend for such Servant, Three Thousand Tobacco-Plants, and no more: And such Housekeeper, having more than One White Woman Servant, shall have Liberty to tend Three Thousand Plants, for each of such White Women Servants, and no more.

PROVIDED, That no such Housekeeper, shall have any Allowance for more than Two White Women, whereof the Wife or Mistress of