

*An Act to prevent the injuring Harbours within this Province ;  
and for repealing the Act therein mentioned.*

**W**HEREAS, notwithstanding the Laws heretofore made for the Preservation of Harbours and Landing-Places, within this Province, Masters of Ships and Vessels, and others, having the Charge or Command of Ships and Vessels, have caused or suffered great Quantities of Ballast, from on board their Ships and Vessels, to be thrown into the Rivers and Harbours within this Province ; whereby many safe and very good Harbours are already spoiled, or rendered dangerous ; which Practice, if not timely prevented, will be very hurtful to the Trade and Navigation of *Great-Britain*, and entirely destructive to the Trade and Navigation of this Province. And whereas the said pernicious Practices have been continued and carried on, because, by the Laws heretofore made, Masters of Ships and Vessels, or other Persons who have had the Charge and Command of Ships and Vessels, and who therefore might and ought to have prevented the said mischievous Custom, have not been subject to any Penalty for neglecting their Duty therein : Wherefore it is prayed that it may be Enacted :

*AND be it 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 from and after the Publication of this Act, if any Ballast shall be taken, unladen, or cast out of any Ship, or other Vessel, on any Pretence whatsoever, within the Limits hereafter mentioned, but in the Day Time, That is to say, between the Rising and Setting of the Sun ; or if any Ballast shall be unladen, or taken out of any Ship or Vessel in the Bay of Chesapeake, above Cedar-Point, below the Mouth of Patuxent River, or in any River, Creek, or Harbour, within this Province, and cast into the Bay above Cedar-Point aforesaid ; or into any River, Creek, or Harbour, below High-Water Mark, that the Master, or other Person, having the Charge or Command of such Ship or Vessel, shall forfeit and pay the Sum of Fifty Pounds Current Money ; One Half thereof to the Lord Proprietary, for the Support of Government, the other Half to him or them that will sue for the same : To be recovered in any Court of Record within this Province, by Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint, or Information ; wherein no Essoyn, Protection, or Wager of Law to be allowed.*

*AND be it Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That no Person whatsoever, shall presume to build any Ware, or Hedge, cross any River, Creek, or Branch, below any publick Landing-Place, so as to prejudice or dam up the Channel, or to obstruēt the Passage of Boats, on Pain of forfeiting Ten Pounds Current Money of *Maryland* : To be recovered in the County Court, by Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint, or Information ; wherein no Essoyn, Protection, or Wager of Law, shall be allowed.*

*AND to the End that all Masters, and other Persons, having the Charge or Command of Ships or Vessels, may have due Notice of this Act, and not pretend Ignorance, Be it Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That every Naval-Officer within this Province, shall set up and keep fixed in some publick Place in his Office, a Copy of this Act ; ( for which Copy the said Naval-Officers, shall be allowed Ten Shillings in the publick*