

An ACT for the Relief of *John Blandford* and *Hannah Ratcliffe*.

**W**HEREAS *John Blandford* of *Prince George's County*, and *Hannah Ratcliffe* of *Queen-Anne's County*, Executrix of the <sup>Preamble.</sup> Testament, and Last Will of *William Ratcliffe* Deceased, have by their respective Petitions severally set forth, that a Negro Man Slave belonging to the said *John* was Committed to the Custody of the Sheriff of *Prince George's County*, on Suspicion of Conspiring the Death of fundry White People, and that during the Time of his Imprisonment he Died: And that a Negro Man Slave of the aforesaid *William Ratcliffe* in his Life Time, voluntarily Murdered one of his Fellow Slaves, and being Apprehended and Committed for that Fact Died in Prison before any Court happened wherein he could be Tried; wherefore the said Petitioners severally Pray to be Allowed from the Publick, for the Value of the aforesaid Slaves.

Be it therefore Enacted by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the Advice and Consent of his Lordship's Governor, Justices of *Pr. George's County* to determine the value of *John Blandford's* Slave at the Time of his commitment. and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the Authority of the same, That the Justices of *Prince George's County* Court, shall, at the next Court to be held for that County after the End of this present Session of Assembly, or at the Court succeeding the said next Court, in Court judicially sitting, settle and determine what Value the aforesaid Slave of the aforesaid *John Blandford* was of at the Time of his Commitment aforesaid, in Current Money of this Province, and shall Cause an Entry or Minute of such Value to be made in the Proceedings of their said Court.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Treasurer of the Western Shore of this Province for the Time being, upon the producing a Certificate from the Clerk of the said County, under his Hand and the County Seal (which Certificate the same Clerk is hereby required to make and give) of the Value of the said last mentioned Slave, Allowance for said Slave to be paid out of the Treasury. settled and determined as aforesaid, shall Pay to the same *John*, his Executors, Administrators or Assigns, what the same Slave shall have been Valued at as aforesaid, out of the Publick Stock of this Province in his Hands, without Fee or Reward.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Justices of *Queen-Anne's County* Court, shall, at the next Court to be held for that County after the End of this present Session of Assembly, or at the Court succeeding the said next Court, in Court judicially sitting, settle and determine what Value the aforesaid Slave of the aforesaid *William Ratcliffe* was of at the Time of his Commitment aforesaid, in Current Money of this Province, and shall Cause an Entry or Minute of such Value to be made in the Proceedings of their said Court.