

An ACT for the relief of Thomas Lightfoot, a languishing prisoner in Talbot county gaol.

WHEREAS Thomas Lightfoot, by his petition to this general assembly, hath set forth, That he has continued a prisoner for debt in Talbot county gaol for a considerable time past, and still continues in the like deplorable situation, not being able to redeem his body with all the estate or interest he hath in the world, which he would readily surrender up and part with to his creditors, if they would accept the same and grant the petitioner his liberty: And as the allegations of the said Thomas Lightfoot appear to this general assembly to be true, and that his lying in gaol can be of no advantage to his creditors, it is humbly prayed that the said Thomas Lightfoot may be relieved according to his petition aforesaid: Preamble.

II. Be it therefore enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That in case the said Thomas Lightfoot shall deliver up and surrender to the sheriff of Talbot county aforesaid, in presence of two justices of the peace for the county aforesaid, whom the said sheriff is hereby authorized and required to summon at the request of the said prisoner, all his real and personal estate, either in possession, reversion, remainder, or in trust, or in or unto which he hath any claim or interest, and likewise convey, assign, transfer, and make over, unto the said sheriff, for the use of the said creditors, all such his estate, interest, or claim, as aforesaid, after such manner as by the said sheriff, and by the major part of such creditors, or such of them as shall think fit to attend, shall reasonably devise or require, at the costs and charges of the person or persons who shall claim benefit thereof, so that the said Thomas Lightfoot be not burdened with any warranty thereby, other than against himself, or those claiming by, from, or under him, and that the said prisoner, at the time of such surrender and transferring his estate as aforesaid, shall take his solemn affirmation before the said two justices to the following effect, viz. "I, Thomas Lightfoot, do solemnly, sincerely, and truly, declare and affirm, that the goods, debts, and effects, which I have delivered, assigned, and made over, to the sheriff of Talbot county aforesaid, in trust, for the use of my creditors, are the whole estate, both real and personal, of my own in possession, or that I have any title to in the world, and that I have not any estate, goods, or effects, of any kind whatsoever, left either in possession, reversion, or remainder, (the necessary wearing apparel of myself, wife and children, and working tools, excepted) and that I have not, directly or indirectly, sold, leased, or otherwise conveyed or disposed of, all or any part of my estate, thereby to defraud my creditors, or to secure the same, to receive or expect any profit or advantage therefrom;" it shall and may be lawful for the sheriff of the county aforesaid to discharge the said Thomas Lightfoot, and suffer him to go at large.

Thomas Lightfoot to deliver to the sheriff all his estate, &c.

III. And be it further enacted, That if the said Thomas Lightfoot shall be arrested or imprisoned, on any process sued out on any judgment or decree obtained against him, for any debt, damages, or costs, contracted, owing, or growing due, before the end of this present session of assembly, the court out of which such process issued shall and may

If arrested, the court may discharge him, &c.