

By the House of Delegates,

DECEMBER 22, 1803.

ORDERED, *That the Bill, entitled, An Act for preventing the staple commodity of Tobacco from being brought into disrepute, and for the prevention of frauds in the sale thereof, be published with the Votes and Proceedings of the present Session.*

By order,

W. HARWOOD, Clk.

An ACT for preventing the staple commodity of tobacco from being brought into disrepute, and for the prevention of frauds in the sale thereof.

WHEREAS it has been represented to this general assembly, that the mode of selling tobacco by sample hath become almost universal: And whereas it has also been represented, that very many and great frauds have been committed by the exhibition of false samples, very different from the quality contained in the hogsheads from which said samples were alleged to have been drawn: And whereas it is necessary, for the protection of the fair dealer, whether planter or merchant, and for the detection of the arts of fraudulent men, that the legislature should interpose its authority; therefore,

II. **Be it enacted**, *by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That it shall be the duty of the justices of the levy court to have made and delivered to the inspector or inspectors of the respective warehouses in every county, on or before — day of —, a brass or iron seal, at the county expence, on which seal shall be cut or engraved the initial letters of the name of such warehouse; and it shall be the duty of every inspector, as soon as he shall have drawn three hands of tobacco from a hogshead of tobacco in the course of inspection, to write on a slip of paper the mark, number, tare and net, of such hogshead from which the same shall have been drawn, together with the date of the inspection of the same, which said slip of paper shall also be signed by the inspector or inspectors receiving the said tobacco, and by him or them carefully applied to, and confined on, the said three hands of tobacco, in manner and form following, to wit: The said three hands of tobacco shall be confined together by a twine, to be inserted through the binding or wrist of each of them,