

*An ACT to enable the Inhabitants of this Colony, to discharge their Public Dues, Officers Fees, and other Tobacco Debts, in Money, for the ensuing Year.*

**I**T being evident from the prodigious Diminution of our Staple Commodity, occasioned by the Unseasonableness of the Weather in most Parts of the Colony, that there will not be Tobacco made sufficient to answer the common Demands of the Country, and it being certainly expedient at all such Times, to prevent as much as possible the Distresses that must inevitably attend such a Scarcity; *Be it therefore Enacted by the Lieutenant-Governor, Council and Burgesses of this present General Assembly, and it is hereby Enacted by the Authority of the same,* That it shall and may be lawful to and for any Person or Persons, from whom any Tobacco is Due, by Judgment for Rent, by Bond, or upon any Contract, or for Public, County and Parish Levies, or for any Secretaries, Clerks, Sheriffs, Surveyors, or other Officers, Fees, or by any other Ways and Means whatsoever, to pay and satisfy the same, either in Tobacco according to the Directions of the Act of Assembly entitled, *An Act for amending the Staple of Tobacco, and preventing Frauds in His Majesty's Customs, or in Money at the Rate of 16s8 for every Hundred Pounds of nett Tobacco, and so in Proportion for a greater or lesser Quantity, at the Option of the Payer.* And the Sheriffs, and other Collectors, shall, and they are hereby required to receive the same from any Person or Persons, in Discharge of any such Levies and Officers Fees. And the Sheriffs, or other Collectors of the Levies and Fees aforesaid, shall Account with and Pay to the Persons entitled to the same, in Proportion to their several Demands, all Tobacco and Money which they shall receive in Payment of such Levies and Fees, which shall discharge such Sheriffs and Collectors from any other Demands for such Levies and Fees, any Law to the contrary thereof notwithstanding. *Provided always,* That nothing herein contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to any Public County, or Parish Levies, or Officers Fees, now due, or hereafter to become due, in any County where by Law the Inhabitants of such County are now impowered to discharge the same in Money. *Provided also,* That nothing herein contained shall extend to any Contract made for Tobacco before the Passing of this Act, where the Money or Goods given for such Tobacco, have been *bonâ fide* paid at a greater Rate than Sixteen Shillings and Eight pence per Hundred, as aforesaid; but that all such Contracts shall be Discharged in Tobacco, according to the Terms of such Contracts, or in Money according to the Price really given for such Tobacco, together with the lawful Interest arising on the same to the Time of Paying the same, at the option of the Person or Persons from whom the Tobacco would have been Due, had this Act never been Passed. *And be it farther Enacted,* That this Act shall Continue and be in Force for One Year, and no longer.