

Liber
W H & L uince or of Brittish or Irish discent may any wayes Lawfully doe Any law provisoes Act or Custome of this Prouince or other thing whatsoever had made ordeined or done within this Prouince to the Contrary thereof in any wayes Notwithstanding.

An Act for the Encourageing the Importacōn
of Negroes and Slaues into this Province

Whereas Severall of the good people of this Prouince haue been discouraged to import into or purchase within this Prouince any Negroes or other Slaues and such as haue Imported or purchased any such Negroes or Slaues haue to the great displeasure of Almighty God and the prejudice of the Soules of those poore people Neglected to instruct them in the Christian faith or to Endure or permitt them to Receive the holy Sacrament of Babtisme for the Remission of their Sinns upon a mistake and vngrounded apprehension that by becomeing Christians they and the Issues of their bodies are actually manumited and made free and discharged from their Seruitude and bondage be itt declared and Enacted by his Lordship the Lord and Proprietary of this Prouince by and with the advice and consent of the upper and lower houses of this present Generall Assembly and by the Authority of the same That where any Negro or Negroes Slave or Slaues being in Seruitude or bondage is are or shall become Christian or Christians and hath or have Received or shall att any time Receive the Holy Sacrament of Babtizme before or after his her or their Importacōn into this Prouince the same is not nor shall or ought the same be denied adjudged Construed or taken to be or to amount vnto a manumicōn or freeing Inlarging or discharging any such Negroe or Negroes Slaue or Slaues or any his or their Issue or Issues from his her their or any of their Seruitude or Seruitudes Bondage or bondages Butt that Notwithstanding any such Act or thing Acts or things And Notwithstanding any such becoming Christian or Christians or Receiveing the Sacrament of Babtizme Every such Negroe and Negroes slaue and slaues and all and every the Issue and Issues of every such Negroe and Negroes Slaue and Slaues Is are and be and shall att all tymes hereafter be adjudged Reputed deemed and taken to be and Remyne in Seruitude and Bondage and subject to the same Seruitude and Bondage to all intents and purposes as if hee shee they every or any of them was or were in and Subject vnto before such his her or their Becomeing Christian or Christians or Receiveing of the Sacrament of Baptizme any opinion or other matter or thing to the Contrary in any wise Notwithstanding.