

An Act Limiting Servants Times

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For asmuch as this Assembly taking into their Serious consideration the great Charge and Hazard that the People of this Province are at in procuring Servants for their necessary Im-
ploys and in Reguard that the Time that hath hitherto bene allowed by the former Law to Such as have transported Servants into this Province without indentures being above one and twenty yeares of Age was but Foure yeares Service in which time it is conceived the Masters and owers of the said Servants cannot receive that Reasonable Satisfaction for their charges trouble and great Hazard which all Masters and owers of Servants are and must of necessity be at with their Servants This Assembly doe therefore pray That it may be enacted And bee it therefore enacted by the Right Honoble the Lord Propy^{ty} by and with the advice and consent of the upper and Lower House of this Present Generall Assembly. That whosoever shall Transport any Servant into this Province without Indenture and such Servant being above the Age of Twenty Two yeares shall be obleiged to serve the full Space and Tearme of Five yeares if between eighteen and XXII without indenture six yeares if betweene fivetene and eightene without Indenture Seaven yeares if under fiftene and coming in without Indenture as aforesaid Such Servant shall serve till he or she arrive to the full age of Two and Twenty Yeares And bee it also further enacted that all Servants Transported out of Verginea into this Province shall compleat their Time of Service here which they ought to have served in Virginia and noe more. And bee it further enacted That every Master Mistres Dame Assignee or Trustee of what kind soever owneing or keeping any Such Servant as aforesaid whether by virtue of Transportacōn Purchase or otherwise shall within six months after the Receiving such Servant into their Custody within this Province (Except he shee or they claime but five yeares Service of such servant) bring the said Servant into their Respective County Court where they doe Inhabite. And every of the said Courts are hereby empowered and Authorized to Iudge and Determine of the Age of such servant soe brought and cause the same to be entred upon Record And if the said Master Mistris Dame Assignee or Trustee doe not bring the said servant within six months after his or her Importacōn as aforesaid That then the said Master Mistris dame Assignee or Trustee Giving such Reason as the court shall approve of why such servant was not brought before the court within six months as is aforesaid. Then the court to give longer Time to the said Master Mistris Dame Assignee or Trustee for bringing in Such Servant to be judged as in this Act is Ex-