

U. H.
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To the R^t hono^{ble} the vpper & the hono^{ble}
the lower howes of this p^rsent generall
Assembly

The humble petⁿ of W^m Smith Ordinary Keeper
Sheweth

That yo^r pet^r was obliged for seaven yeares to keepe ordinary here att S^t Marys, And thereby is constrayned to give Creditt through all the Province likewise that there is an act entituled
p. 266 an Act for the Encouragem^t of Ordinary Keepers which provides Execucōn for all bills and acc^{ts} vnder hand wryting & wittnes due to any ordinary keepers which yo^r pet^r findes immateriall by reason in Courts and other busie tymes many persons after two or three dayes stay goe away without setting their hands to their accounts, or passing bill By which means yo^r pet^r through distance of place, multiplicity of publick busines & not well knowing the persons is rendred incapable of procuring his debts, And in the end such debtors haue the liberty to pleade to his losse that act where acc^{ts} are not pleadeable after such a tyme, By which meanes yo^r pet^r is inervated from the preservacōn of his publick imployments without speedy redress which he humbly tenders to yo^r honors may be thus effected That is his bookes being avouched by his booke keepers oath he keepeing foure bookes for that purpose one for every Provinciall Court & once a yeare they being all drawne into one Execucōn may be signed vpon itt. He not intending to p^rjudice the Country thereby but only to gett his reall debt hereby obligeing himselfe not to serve any execu[cōn] but from the tenth October to the last of March that is Tobacco tyme, And soe people th^t otherwise haue fraudulent intencōns, heareing of this will pass their bills, or signe their acc^{ts} before their departure. Yo^r pet^r further shewes to yo^r honors that after execucōn signed, he is inforced to put his debts vnto the Sherriffe to collect who through multiplicity of publick busines or neglect is very late before his debts are received or acc^{ts} returned, By which meanes yo^r pet^r's Cred^{ts} are delayed his owne Creditt impaired & in fine his tobacco left on his hands all the yeare, Soe th^t he is dampnyfied for want of speedyer returnes both in providing for his publick Entertayn[ment] and loss of his tobacco to his totall ruine & disableing without speedy redress which yo^r pet^r humbly Conceives may be thus effected. That after Execucōn signed as aforesaid yo^r pet^r's may haue the
p. 267 liberty to choose in every County such men as he can Confide in, And that they may be impowred for the receiueing his debts soe that he may thereby haue his tobacco betimes in the yeare, whereby he may be in Capacity to provide for the yeare ensueing. Yo^r pet^r also humbly craues of yo^r honors that he may have six acres of land of the one hundred acres he lives vpon