

September 26th 1704

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Lib. L. L.
No. 64.

Read and Assented to by
the house of Delegates
W Taylard Clk h.D.

Read and Assented to by her
Majestys hon^{ble} Councill
W Bladen Cl. Concil.

Maryland October 3^d 1704

On behalf of her Majesty &c. I will this be a Law.

Jo: Seymour

An Act for the punishment of Blasphemy Prophane Swearing and Cursing p. 122

Be it Enacted by the Queens most excellent Majesty by and with the Advice and Consent of her Majestys Governour Councill and Assembly of this Province and by the Authority of the same that from and after the end of this present Sessions of Assembly if any person or persons whatsoever within this Province shall blaspheme God (that is to say) Curse him or deny Our Saviour Jesus Christ to be the Son of God or shall deny the holy Trinity The ffather Son and holy Ghost or the Godhead of any of the three persons or the Unity of the Godhead or shall utter any Prophane words concerning the holy Trinity or any of the persons thereof for his her or their first Offence shall be bored through his her or their Tongue and fined the Sumē of twenty pounds Sterling to her Majesty to be applyd to the defraying of the Charge of the County where such Offence shall be comitted to be levyed upon his her or their goods or Chattells Lands or Tenements And if Such Offender or Offenders shall not have any Goods or Chattells Lands or Tenements whereby the said ffine may be levyed as before is directed then such Offender or Offenders shall Suffer six Months Imprisonment of his her or their bodys without Baile or Mainprize. And for every second Offence whereof such Offender or Offenders shall be legally convict he she or they shall be Stigmatized by burning in the forehead with the Letter B. And be fin'd by the Court where he she or they shall be Convicted forty pounds Sterl to the Queens Majesty to be Applyd to the uses aforesaid to be levyed as aforesaid And if such Offender or Offenders shall not have any Goods or Chattells Lands or Tenements whereby the said ffine may be levyed as before is directed then such Offender or Offenders shall suffer Impriscnment of his her or their bodys for the Space of one whole year from the Time of his her or their Conviction or Convictions without Baile or Mainprize And for every third offence whereof Such Offender or Offenders shall be legally Convict he she or they so offending p. 123