

Lib. L. L. putts himself upon the Country for tryall thereof Then the  
 No. 64. Clerk of the Indictments shall have two hundred pounds of  
 p. 140 Tobacco for his ffee

September 29 <sup>th</sup> 1704	September 29 <sup>th</sup> 1704
Read and Assented to by the house of Delegates W Taylard Clk h D	Read and Assented to by her Majestys hon <sup>ble</sup> Councill W Bladen Cl Concl.

Maryland October 3<sup>d</sup> 1704  
 On behalf of her Maj<sup>ty</sup> &c I will this be a Law  
 Jo: Seymour

An Act for securing the Parochial Librarys of this Province.

Bee 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 the Authority of the same that the Librarys appointed for the severall and respective parishes within this Province shall be and remain in the hands and possession of the Minister of the Parish (if there be any Minister actually inducted into and incumbent in the said parish) during his Residence in the said parish who is by this Act obliged to keep and preserve the said Library from Wast and imbezellment and to be accountable for the same to the Governour Councill and Assembly as often as required.

And to that purpose the said Minister shall pass two Receipts for the said books Inserting what they are and the title page of the same One receipt to be by the Vestry of the said Parish transmitted to the Gov<sup>r</sup>nour and Councill and the other to remain with the Vestry of the said parish to be entred in their Register book And the said Vestrys are hereby obliged to Visitt the said Librarys twice in the year and inspect the same.

And in Case the said Vestrys shall not (or at least four of them of Eldest standing) visitt the said Librarys twice in the year as by this Act is required the whole Number of Vestrymen shall forfeit and pay the Summe of fourteen hundred pounds of Tobacco one Moyety to her Majesty her heires and  
 p. 141 Successors for the Support of Government the other Moyety to the Informer or him or them that shall sue for the same in any Court of Record in this Province by Accon of Debt bill plaint or Information wherein no Essoyn protection or Wager of Law to be allowed. And the Onus probandi shall lye on the part of the Vestry to make it appear that they have Visitted the Librarys as by this Act they are obliged.