

aforesaid shall appeal to the Govern<sup>r</sup> & Council upon complaint made of such persons willfull & negligent non performance as aforesaid shall and may be sent for before the Govern<sup>r</sup> and Council and their punished or bound over to answer the contempt as to Justice shall appertaine, & if any such differences shall happen between any Indians & English in any County in the Province where particular persons are not assign'd to hear and determine such differences as aforesaid the same shall & may be heard & determined by any Justice of the peace in the County aforesaid according to the Rules aforesaid. Provided & it is the true intent & meaning of this Act, That any Indians that shall be or reside among the said nations of Indians shall be deemed & taken as part of the said nation or nations in point of differences as aforesaid This Act to endure for three years or to the end of the next Sessions of Assembly which shall first happen.

Public  
Record  
Office,  
London.  
C. O. 5,  
Vol. 731,  
Maryland.  
From  
1694-1702.  
Acts

An Act for the Ascertainning what shall be the Sheriffs Duty in & upon Returnes by them made for Publick Dues & Officers Fees.

Acts of  
June, 1697,  
ch. 10

Whereas it hath been represented to this present Generall Assembly that the publick Credit of this Province is not only much impaired by the neglect and sinister Ends of Sheriffs to whome the Collection of publick dues are Committed they often converting the first & best of Publick Tobbacco to their private use Whereby the Country Creditors become frustrated of the use and benefit of such their Just dues Seldome having any accounts thereof untill the conveniencys of Shipping or disposing of the same be over for that yeare wherein it becomes due to them as aforesaid But also the good people of this Province much abused and unjustly taken in Execution for Fees due to the severall publick Officers occasioned by the false & undue retournes of the Sheriff aforesaid who frequently upon the passing there accounts with such Officers retourne sundry of their Debtors in arrears against whome the year ensueing Execution goes forth de Novo Notwithstanding they have justly payd their dues as aforesaid And the succeeding Sheriff to whome such arrears are committed to collect for Sueer of there Fees often takeing such person in Execution notwithstanding their produceing receipts for the same to their great greivance & damage to the End therefore that the Country Creditors may for the future no more be delay'd from gitting in such publick Debts as to them are due & payable nor the good people of this Province unjustly greived & Executed for such Fees for which they produce receipt or can otherwise make appeir to be payd,

It is humbly prayed that it may be Enacted by the Kings most Excellent Maj<sup>ty</sup> etc. That yearly & every year from & after the Publication hereof no Sheriff within this Province shall convert make use of or dispose of any publick Tobbacco or Officers Fees within their County by them Collected untill such time as he or they have fully