

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

deterred from seeking of Redress by a due Course of Law for the Recovery of their just Rights in such Cases wherein the severall & Respective County Courts have not Jurisdiccōn to hold Pleas, but also many persons criminalls Escape without notice taken of them or being brought to condigne Punishment the party or partyes Evidences against such Offend<sup>rs</sup>, rather choosing to stifle the Fact and hoodwinke Justice, which otherwise they would have willingly detected then to be put to so great an Inconveniency in attending Provinciaall Courts in order to give in their Evidence at the place aforesaid. And for that it is taken into consideracōn as a thing absolutely necessary that an Act should be made ascertaining in what part of this Province the Cheif Seat of Judicature therein for the future should be and remaine: And being found that the appointing thereof in or neare to the Centre of this Province will most conduce to the generall Satisfaccōn and benefitt of the People

It is therefore humbly prayed That it may be Enacted, And be it Enacted by the King & Queens most Excellent Ma<sup>tyes</sup> by and with the Advice & Consent of this present Generall Assembly and the authority of the same that from and after the End of the next Provinciaall Court to be held at the City of St. Maryes the sixth day of November next ensuing, That parte and place known by the name of Anne-Arrundell Towne lying & being in Anne-Arrundell County upon the River Seaverne be the Cheif place and Seat of Justice within this Province for holding of Assemblies and Provinciaall Courts, and that all writts Pleas and other process issuing out or returnable to the Provinciaall Court as aforesaid or to the Court of Chancery shall from & after the End of the next Provinciaall Court to be held at the City of St. Maryes as aforesaid be made returnable to Anne-Arrundell Towne aforesaid and beare Test from the place aforesaid. And it is hereby Enacted by the Authority aforesaid by and with the Advice & Consent aforesaid that the Commiss<sup>rs</sup> nominated and appointed for the Surveying and laying out of Towns by an Act made this present Generall Assembly for the appointing of Towns doe survey and lay out in the most comodious and convenient parte and place of the said Towne six Acres of Land intire for the Erecting a Court House and other buildings as shall be thought necessary and convenient for the better accomodating and entertaining of those persons as shall have occasion to have recourse to the Assemblies and Provinciaall Courts aforesaid on or before the Twenty fifth day of December next on penalty and Forfeiture of Two Thousand pounds of Tobacco each Comiss<sup>r</sup> as aforesaid, which Court house shall be Forty six foot in length, from Inside to Inside, and Twenty two foot wide from Inside to Inside, Brickworke two story high, the lower story to be Eleaven foot in Pitch, and the upper story to be Eight foot in Pitch and plastered on the Inside with a Porch & Porch Chamber fourteene foot long & twelve foot wide of the same worke, the Roofe to be