

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

For the Redress of both partyes for the future the imediate and speedy Recovery of just Rights and prevention of the like grievances for the tyme to come It is therefore humbly prayed that it may be Enacted And be it Enacted by the King & Queens most Excellent Ma<sup>ty</sup>s by and with the Advice and Consent of this present Generall Assembly and the Authority of the same That noe County Court within this Province shall hold Plea or have Jurisdictiō for the hearing trying & determining of any Accōn or Accōns before them brought either upon Bond Bill Assumpcōn reckoning or Account wherein the demand made doth not exceed the Sumē of two hundred pounds of Tobaccoe or twelve shillings sterling (except such accōn or accōns that are already comenced or that shall be comenced before the Publicacōn hereof within the severall and respective County Courts aforesaid) But that in all such cases wherein the demand made does not exceede the Sumē of two hundred pounds of Tobacco or twelve shillings aforesaid It shall & may be lawfull for any one Justice of the Peace within the severall and respective Countyes wherein the persons debtors doth reside to trye heare & determine the matter of Controversie between the party & partyes debtor and Creditor as aforesaid and upon applicacōn to him made by any Cred<sup>r</sup> or Cred<sup>rs</sup> of such debtor or debtors as aforesaid and at the tyme of the Applicacōn aforesaid such Justice is also Authorized and Impowred and also willed and required to Issue out his Warrant, and to depute such person for to execute the same as he shall thinke fitt & to Comānd and bring before him the person of such debtor or debtors and also sumons to issue for such witness or witnesses as either Plaintiff or Defendant shall have occasion to make use of with power to Administer Oaths to either Plaintiff or Defendant or to any of their or either evidences as occasion shall require for the better clearing of the matter in question before him and upon full hearing of the allegacōns of either party or partyes with what may or can upon Oath be given in Evidence by any of their or either of their Evidences to proceed to Judgment as the nature of the case shall require whose determinacōn shall be finall: All which such Justice of the Peace before whom such matter of Controversie shall be brought shall doe gratis. And if such party or partyes against whome Judgment shall be given shall refuse or delay to pay such debt as shall be awarded against him them or any of them as aforesaid Then it shall and may alsoe be lawfull for such Justice of the Peace to award Execution against the said party or partyes for the debt aforesaid by fieri facias directed to the Sheriffe of the said County which said Sheriffe upon receite of such Precept from such Justice aforesaid shall imediateley thereupon levy the same upon his or their goods and Chattles as the matter of the writt shall require All which such Sheriff shall alsoe doe gratis any law usage or Custome to the Contrary notwithstanding. This Act to endure for three yeares or to the End of the next Session of Assembly which shall first happen.