

Debtors, have always been deemed the proper Objects of Publick ^{Session} Compassion; for the Relief, therefore, of such unhappy Debtors, ^{Laws} who shall faithfully discover upon Oath, and deliver up and assign all their Estates and Effects whatsoever, for the Benefit of their Creditors,

Be it Enacted, by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the Authority of the same, That the several and respective Justices of the several County Courts of this Province, be, and are hereby impowered, authorized, and required, upon the Petition to them preferred, of such poor Prisoner for Debt or Damage, to be discharged, to call, and cause to come before them, or any Three of them, whereof One to be of the Quorum, such Debtor or Debtors, who at any Time after the End of this present Session of Assembly, shall be actually in Prison, or Custody of any Sheriff or Goaler within this Province, for any Debt or Damages, or upon any Attachment or Execution, or any Process issued or issuing by any legal Authority, for any Debt or Damages; as also the Sheriff or Goaler, in whose Custody such Debtors are detained, with the Cause of such Detainer; before which said Justices, or any Three of them, as aforesaid, such Prisoner shall take the following Oath (or Affirmation if a Quaker:)

I A. B. do, upon my corporal Oath, solemnly profess and declare before Almighty God, that I have not any Estate Real or Personal, in Possession, Reversion, or Remainder, of the Value of Forty Shillings in the Whole, or sufficient to pay the Debt or Damages for which I am imprisoned; and that I have not directly or indirectly at any Time since the Debt or Damage aforesaid became due, sold, leased, or otherwise conveyed, disposed of, or intrusted, all or any Part of my Estate, thereby to secure the same, to receive or expect any Profit or Advantage thereof, or defraud or deceive any Creditor or Creditors whatsoever, to whom I stand indebted.

Then, after taking such Oath, or Affirmation, as aforesaid, the ^{p. 39} said Justices, as aforesaid, shall remand the Prisoner to Prison, and shall give a Certificate in Writing under their Hands and Seals, to such Prisoner, of his having taken such Oath, or Affirmation, as aforesaid, before them, to be served upon, or left at the usual Place of Abode, of such Person or Persons, or their Attorney or Agents, in the County or Province, if not Resident, at whose Suit such Prisoner standeth charged and imprisoned, thereby appointing as well the said Person or Persons, as the said Prisoner, to appear before the said Justices, at the next Court to be holden for the said County; when if it shall appear upon Oath, (which Oath the Justices are impowered to administer) the said Certificate was so served, or left Forty Days or more, before the said Court; and that the said