

Liber B.L.C. thereof; and if any Sheriff shall refuse or delay to make Payment accordingly if required, he or they so refusing or delaying shall forfeit and pay to the Party grieved double the Value of the Tobacco so refused and delayed to be paid, to be recovered with Costs, if the Party Creditor only inclines to sue the Sheriff; or otherwise, if he sues his Bond, in this Case the Creditor shall only take his Debt, Interest and Costs out of the Sheriff's Bond that shall be sued." And forasmuch as there is not any Provision made therein, in case it should happen that any the Inhabitants of this Province should endeavour to conceal themselves, or remove their Effects, so that at the Time mentioned therein their Goods or Persons should not be forthcoming, to answer the said Sheriffs for Public or County Levies, Parochial Charges, Officers and Lawyers Fees, or other Claims due from such Person to any Sheriff, on Accounts delivered before the twentieth of February yearly: For Remedy whereof for the future,

[Sheriffs im-
powered to
distrain, on
Suspicion
that any
Person is
going Clan-
destinely to
withdraw
himself or
Effects.] Be it likewise Enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for any the Sheriffs within this Province, and they are hereby directed and required, at any Time between the twentieth Day of February and the tenth Day of June next following, on Notice being to them respectively given, that any or either of the Inhabitants of the respective Counties, who is indebted to them respectively as aforesaid (for which an Account hath been before the said twentieth Day of February delivered to, or left at the Dwelling-House of the said Party), that the said Party is about to withdraw, or hath withdrawn himself or his Effects, from the Place of his or her Residence, whereby the said Sheriff may be hindred from executing the same according to Law; that then and in such Case it shall and may be lawful for the said Sheriff to apply himself to any Magistrate of the County; and on such Sheriff's Application to, and on Oath made by the said Sheriff or some other credible Person before the said Magistrate, that the Sheriff, or such Person, is informed and verily believes that such Debtor is about to withdraw, or hath withdrawn him or herself, or his or her Effects, out of the said County, and thereby prevent the said Sheriff from executing such Debtor, or his or her Effects, for the Tobacco or Money so as aforesaid due to him; which Oath shall be made in Writing, and left with the said Magistrate, and by him returned to the next County Court; and the said Magistrate shall then give the said Sheriff a Warrant from under his Hand and Seal, and thereby direct and empower the said Sheriff to levy the Tobacco or Money, so as aforesaid due to him, in the same Manner as he might do by the recited Act aforesaid, after the said tenth Day of June; all which the said Sheriff shall do by Virtue of his Office, without any Execution Fee.

p. 514

[Proviso.] Provided nevertheless, And it is the true Intent and Meaning of this Act, That if any Debtor as aforesaid absconding, or about to