

No. 10 An Act for the Relief of Thomas Barkley, a languishing Prisoner, in Kent County Goal. Liber H. S.
No. I

Whereas Thomas Barkley, of Kent County, by his humble Petition to this General Assembly, hath set forth, That he has, Four Years and upwards, been closely confined in Kent County Goal, for Debt, and not having Effects, nor capable by Friends, or any Means whatever, to raise a Sum sufficient to comply with the just Claims of his Creditors, and being willing to deliver up what little he has in Discharge thereof, he humbly prays Relief by an Act to be passed in his Favour: And for, that the Truth of the said Petitioner's Allegations is made appear to this present General Assembly, and that his lying in Goal can be no Benefit to his Creditors, and forasmuch as the Sheriff of Kent County aforesaid, and the principal and greatest Number of the Creditors of the said Thomas Barkley, have signified their Willingness for the Releasement of the said Thomas, by recommending and signing his Petition to his Excellency the Governor, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, of this Province: Therefore it is humbly prayed that it may be enacted, [Preamble.]

And be it Enacted, by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the Advice and Consent of his Lordship's Governor, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the Authority of the same, That unless all or any of the Creditor or Creditors of the said Thomas Barkley, or the Attorney of such Creditor or Creditors, within this Province, shall, within Twenty Days after the End of this Session of Assembly, go to the Sheriff of Kent County aforesaid, and give good Security to pay the Imprisonment Fees, that shall or may become due, from the said Thomas Barkley, after the End of the said Twenty Days, and also find the said Thomas Barkley sufficient Meat, Drink, and Cloathing, during his future Imprisonment; and in Case the said Thomas Barkley shall deliver up or surrender, or cause to be delivered up or surrendered, to the Sheriff of Kent County aforesaid, in the Presence of Two Justices of the Peace of the said County, whom the said Sheriff is hereby required to summon, on the Request of the said Thomas Barkley, at some convenient Time after the Receipt of this Act, not exceeding Five Days, all his real and personal Estate, either in Possession, Reversion, Remainder, or in Trust, or in or unto which he hath any Claim or Interest whatsoever, and likewise before the Day before mentioned, convey, assign, transfer, and make over, unto the Sheriff of Kent County, for the use of his Creditors, all such his Estate, Interest or Claim as aforesaid, after such Manner as by the said Sheriff, and the major Part of such Creditors, or of such of them as shall think fit to direct therein, or their Council learned in the Law, shall reasonably devise or require, at the Costs and Charges of the Persons as shall claim the Benefit thereof, so as the said Thomas Barkley be not burthened with any [Thomas Barkley to be discharged from Prison, on delivering up his Effects, on Oath.]