

N.º 14 : An Act for erecting a Court House and Publick Prison for Baltimore
 Liber H. S. County in the Town of Baltimore and for making Sale of the
 No. 1 old Court House and Prison

[Preamble] Whereas many of the Inhabitants of Baltimore County have petitioned this General Assembly setting forth that the Present Court House for the said County situate in Joppa is considerably too small for transacting therein the Publick Business That the same is greatly out of Repair and the Offices thereof confined and the whole Building slight and insecure for keeping the Publick Records of the said County And that the County Goal from it's original ill Construction has been a continual Expence to the County and defective and insufficient to prevent frequent Escapes of Criminals and other Persons and that from the small number of Houses in the said Town of Joppa the People who Attend the Courts cannot be accomodated Whereby early Adjournments and late Meetings of the Courts are unavoidable and the Publick Business greatly retarded and Praying that a Law may pass for disposing of the Ground and Materials of the present Court House and Prison of the said County and for the Purchasing Ground and building a Court House and Prison in the Town of Baltimore in the County aforesaid And as the Allegations in the said Petition appear to this General Assembly to be true it is prayed that it may be Enacted

[Commissioners impowered to buy 1½ Acres of Ground for building a new Court-House, &c. in Baltimore-Town]

And be it Enacted by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary by and with the Advice and Consent of his Lordships Governor and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly and the Authority of the same That the Honourable John Beale Bordley Esquire Messeiurs John Ridgely, John Moale Robert Adair Robert Alexander William Smith and Andrew Buchanan or the Major part of them be and are hereby appointed Commissioners to execute and Perform the several Trusts and Powers reposed in and required of them by this Act and be and are hereby authorized and impowered to apportion and lay off so much of a Street of the said Town of Baltimore called and known by the Name of Calvert Street at the upper part thereof next Jones's Falls as they shall think proper and to agree with the Owner or Owners of the Land adjoining the Street of the said Town of Baltimore called and known by the name of Calvert Street for the absolute Purchase of any Part thereof they or the Major part of them may judge proper not exceeding in the whole the Quantity of one Acre and an half Acre and in Case the Owner or Owners of such Land shall refuse to make Sale of so much of the said Land as the said Commissioners or the Major Part of them shall think necessary for the Purposes hereinafter by this Act directed at a reasonable Price or be under any Disability of making thereof then the said Commissioners or the Major Part of them shall be and are by Virtue of this Act authorized impowered and required to issue their Warrant to the Sheriff of the said County requiring and

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 [In case the Owner, &c. refuses selling said Ground reasonably, a Jury to be summon'd, &c. to fix its value;]