

## C H A P. XVII.

Passed 16<sup>th</sup>  
Sept. 1731.

*An Act for Relief of Richard Smith, William Nimmo, George Clagget, William Burston, James Mason, John Brooke, and Benjamin Hilliard, languishing Prisoners in Prince George's County Goal; William Robertson, Richard Roper, John Norwood, and Richard Simpson, languishing Prisoners in Ann-Arundel County Goal; Thomas Taylor, a languishing Prisoner in Baltimore County Goal; Edward Hyatt, and Robert Lynch, languishing Prisoners in Kent County Goal; Richard Barrow, Thomas Brown, John Clarke, William Austin, and Robert Cardiff, languishing Prisoners in Talbot County Goal; Thomas Vernal, a languishing Prisoner in St. Mary's County Goal; and Daniel Hall, a languishing Prisoner in Cecil County Goal. Lib. B.L.C. fol. 10. PR.*

## C H A P. XVIII.

Ditto.

\* 1720, ch. 26.

An ACT for easing sundry Inhabitants of this Province, who are Owners of Vessels, from some Difficulties they are put to by an Act, entitled, \* A Supplementary Act to the Act, entitled, An Act for laying an Imposition on Negroes, and several Sorts of Liquors imported; and also on *Irish* Servants, to prevent the Importing too great a Number of *Irish* Papists into this Province. *Lib. B.L.C. fol. 16.*

Preamble.

**F**ORASMUCH as it appears to this General Assembly, That the Owner or Owners of any Vessel belonging to this Province, may, by the Act of Assembly aforesaid, be put to very great Inconveniencies, where they live remote from any Naval Officer, or have Occasion to make Entry of such Vessel in any other Port of this Province, than where such Owner or Owners reside, by their being obliged to go to the Naval Officer of the Port where such Entry is made, to prove their Property in said Vessel:

An Oath before a County Magistrate where the Owners reside, agreeable to 1720, ch. 26, §. 2, and a Certificate thereof, to be as effectual as if made before the Naval Officer.

II. **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 an Oath made by the Owner or Owners of any Vessel, before a Magistrate, in any County where any such Owner or Owners shall reside, agreeable to the Form of the Oath prescribed by the before mentioned Act, and a Certificate thereof, under the Hand and Seal of the Magistrate who shall administer the same, shall be taken and allowed to be as good and effectual, to all Intents and Purposes whatsoever, and shall entitle the Owner or Owners of such Vessel, and all others concerned, to the same Privileges and Allowances, as if the said Oath had been taken before the Naval Officer of the Port where such Vessel hath or shall be Entered.

Provided the Certificate be delivered before Clearance.

III. **Provided always**, That a Certificate of the taking such Oath, under the Hand and Seal of the Magistrate who shall take the same, shall be delivered to the Naval Officer where any Entry is or shall be made, some Time before the Clearing such Vessel.

Such Owners residing in different Counties may make separate Oaths.

The Form.

IV. **And whereas** it may happen, that the Owners of a Vessel may reside in different Counties in this Province, so that they cannot conveniently meet together, to make Oath to their Property, before one Magistrate; **Be it Enacted**, by the Authority, Advice and Consent aforesaid, That where any Person, who, by the Register of any Vessel, appears to be Part Owner of her, shall, before some Magistrate, make Oath, "That he or she is Part Owner of the said Vessel; and that the Persons who appear by the Register of the said Vessel to be Owners of her, are to the best of his or her Knowledge, sole Owners of such Vessel; and that he or she verily believes, that no Person whatsoever, that is not an actual Resident within this Province, hath any Share or Part of the said Vessel;" and