

At a Session of ASSEMBLY begun and held at the City of *Annapolis*, the 3d Day of *June*, in the 2d Year of the Dominion of the Right Honourable FREDERICK, absolute Lord and Proprietary of the Provinces of *Maryland* and *Avalon*, Lord Baron of *Baltimore*, &c. and ended the 23d Day of the same Month, *Anno Domini* 1752: The following Laws were Enacted.

BENJAMIN TASKER, Esq; President.

C H A P. I.

Passed 23<sup>d</sup>  
June 1752.

An ACT to prevent disabled and superannuated Slaves being set Free; or the Manumission of Slaves by any Last Will or Testament. *Lib. B.L.C. fol. 555.*

Preamble.

**W**HEREAS sundry Persons of this Province have set disabled and superannuated Slaves Free, who have either perished through Want, or otherwise become a Burthen to others: And inasmuch as giving Freedom to Slaves, by any Last Will and Testament, may be attended with many Evils; it is therefore humbly prayed that it may be Enacted;

Slaves disabled to Work, &c. shall not be set Free; but supported by their Owners during Life.

II. And be it Enacted, by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the Advice and Consent of his Lordship's President, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the Authority of the same, That it shall not be lawful for any Person or Persons within this Province, to give or grant Freedom to any Slave or Slaves disabled to Work, or gain a sufficient Livelihood and Maintainance; but that in all such Cases, any Master, Mistress, or Owner of such Slave or Slaves, at the proper Cost and Charge of such Master, Mistress, or other Person owning such Slave or Slaves, shall Support and Maintain such Slave or Slaves, during the natural Life or Lives of such Slave or Slaves, in Food and Cloathing fitting and needful for such Slave or Slaves; whereby he, she, or they may not become a Burthen to others, or Perish through Want, to the great Scandal of Christian Society.

No Slaves shall be set Free by any verbal Order, or Will, &c. in the Owners last Sickness.

III. And be it further Enacted, That it shall not be lawful for any Person or Persons within this Province, by any verbal Order, or by his, her, or their Last Will and Testament, or by any other Instrument of Writing, in his, her, or their last Sickness whereof he, she, or they shall Die, to give or grant Freedom to any Slave or Slaves: And if any Person or Persons, after the Time aforesaid, shall by any verbal Order, or by his, her, or their Last Will and Testament, or by any other Writing or Instrument, in his, her, or their last Sickness whereof he, she, or they shall Die, give Freedom to any Slave or Slaves, such Order, Will, or other Writing shall be void and of no Effect, so far as relates to such Freedom or Manumission only.

Owners of old or disabled Slaves, neglecting to provide for them, or suffering them to wander about Begging, may be presented by the Grand Jury,

IV. And be it likewise Enacted, That if any Master, Mistress, Owner or Owners of any Slave or Slaves, grown old and incapable of Labour, or otherwise disabled by Sickness or Accident, shall neglect to provide for such old or disabled Slave necessary Food and Cloathing, or shall suffer any Slave or Slaves whatsoever to depart from his, her, or their respective Habitation or Quarter, or to wander about Begging, whereby such Slave or Slaves may become Burthenome to the Neighbourhood wherein they have resided, or others, it shall and may be lawful for the County Court where such Master, Mistress, Owner or Owners of such Slave or Slaves shall reside, upon Presentment of the Grand