

shall and may from henceforth by the same Authority be Enabled and adjudged
to all intents and purposes able to demand Challenge aske have hold and Enjoy any
lands Tenements Hereditaments and Rents within this Province as heir or heirs to
any of their Ancestors by Reason of any descent in fee simple fee tails General or
Speciall or Remainder upon any Estate tails or come to them or any of them by
any descent in fee simple or fee tails General or Speciall or Remainder upon any
Estate tails as aforesaid or by any other Lawfull Conveyance or Conveyances or means
whatsoever as if they and every of them had been born within this Province or were of
Brittish or Irish descent as aforesaid And also that they and every of them from henceforth
may and shall be Enabled to prosecute maintain and avow Justifies and defend all
manner of actions Suits plaints and other demands whatsoever as liberally frankly
freely fully Lawfully and lawfully as if they and every of them had been Naturally
born within this Province of Maryland or were of Brittish or Irish descent and
as any other person or persons Naturally born within this Province or of Brittish
or Irish descent may any wayes Lawfully doe Any law priviledge Act or Customs of
this Province or other thing whatsoever had made ordained or done within this
Province to the contrary thereof in any wayes Notwithstanding

An Act for the Encouraging the Importation
of Negroes and Slaves into this Province

Whereas severall of the good people of this Province have been discouraged to
import into or purchase within this Province any Negroes or other Slaves and such
as have Imported or purchased any such Negroes or Slaves have to the great
displeasure of Almighty God and the prejudice of the souls of those poor people
neglected to instruct them in the Christian faith or to endure or permit them to
Receive the holy Sacrament of Baptism for the Remission of their Sins upon
a mistake and ungrounded apprehension that by becoming Christians they and the
Issues of their bodies and actually manumitted and made free and discharged from
their servitude and bondage be it declared and enacted by his Lordship the
Lord and Proprietary of this Province by and with the advice and consent of the
upper and lower houses of this present General Assembly and by the Authority
of the same That where any Negro or Negroes Slave or Slaves being in
servitude or bondage is and or shall become Christian or Christians and hath or
have Received or shall at any time Receive the Holy Sacrament of Baptism
before or after his her or their Importation into this Province the same is not nor
shall or ought the same be denied adjudged construed or taken to be or to amount
unto a manumission or freeing Inlarging or discharging any such Negro or
Negroes Slave or Slaves or any his or their Issue or Issues from his her their or
any of their servitude or servitudes Bondage or bondagees But that
Notwithstanding any such Act or thing Acts or things And Notwithstanding
any such becoming Christian or Christians or Receiving the Sacrament of