

An Act relating to servants & slaves.

Whereas there have been severall Acts provided against servants runaways which have hitherto proved ineffectuall in regard they do not sufficiently provide Encouragem^t for such person or persons Inhabitants of this Province as shall seize such runaways servants by this Act deemed runaways Therefore for the better discovery seizing and Apprehending of such runaways. Be it Enacted by the King and Queens most Excellent Majesties by and with the advice and consent of this Generall Assembly and by the Authority of the same. That from and after Publication hereof no servant or servants whatsoever within this Province whether by Indenture or according to the Custom of Country or hired for wages shall travell by Land or water ten miles from the house of his her or their Master Mistres or Dame without a note under their hand, or under the hand of his her or their overseer (if any be) under the penalty of being taken for a Runaway, And to suffer such penalties as are hereafter provided against runaways. And it is here by further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid That any such servant or servants as aforesaid unlawfully absenting himself or themselves from his her or their said Master Mistres or Dame or overseer shall serve ten days for every one days absence to be judged when such Master Mistres or Dame shall bring their said servants before the Justices of the Provinciall Court or County Court, where the Owner Master M^r or Dame or overseer of such servants shall live during the sitting of the Court, be it before or after the Expiration of such servants first time of service by Indenture or otherwise. And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid That any person or persons whatsoever shall wittingly and willingly deteyn any such servant