

An Act for the more speedy bringing  
to Tryall and suppressing Criminals and  
limiting their Punishments for certain Of-  
fences when prosecuted in the County Courts.

Whereas the severity of the Lawes of England against  
theiving stealing and purloining are very suitable to that and all  
other Populous Kingdomes but not agreeable to the nature and  
Constitution of this Province so meanly and thinly Inhabited, &  
for the ease more of the people of this Province in proceeding  
against and bringing to Tryall the severall Persons guilty of  
the Crimes in this Act hereafter mentioned, Be it Enacted by  
the King and Queens most Excellent Majesty by and with the  
advice and Consent of the Gov<sup>r</sup> & Council and this ~~Parliament~~ Gen<sup>l</sup>  
Assembly, that it shall and may be lawfull to and for the sever<sup>al</sup>  
and respective Justices and Commissioners of the severall and  
respective County Courts within this Province in the respective  
County Courts to hear and determine all theiving or stealing  
what soever (Robbery Burglary and house breaking only ex-  
cepted) whether it be a horse, mare, gelding, Colt, Cow, Calf, &  
orc, Bull, Steer, Ram, Ewe or Lambs, Goat, Pigeon, Pigeon  
=try or other goods or Chattels what soever not exceeding the  
value of one thousand pounds of Tobacco, and also of the  
severall Offences mentioned and assigned in an Act made and  
Enacted this Session of Assembly Entituled an Act against