

105.

## An Act concerning those servants that have Bastards.

Whereas divers women servants within this Province not having husbands living with them have been gotten with child in the time of their servitude to the great dishonour of God and apparent damage of Masters or owners of such servants, for remedy whereof. Be it enacted by the King and Queens most Excellent Majesties by and with the advice and consent of this Present Gen<sup>l</sup> assembly and the authority of the same that every such Mother of a Bastard Child not able sufficiently to prove the party charged to be the begetter of such Child, in every such case the Mother of such Child shall only be liable to satisfy the damage so sustained by servitude or otherwise as the Court before whom such Matter is brought shall see convenient. Provided that where the Mother of any such Child as aforesaid shall be able to prove the charge by sufficient Testimony of Witnesses Confession of the party charged or pregnant circumstances agreeing with her declaration in her extremity of her pains or throes of Travell and her Cash taken by some Magistrate before the time of her delivery of such Bastard Child and not after her delivery then the party charged if a servant to satisfy half the said damage if a freeman then the whole damage by servitude or otherwise as the Court before whom such Matter is brought as aforesaid shall think fit, and if any such Mother as aforesaid be able to prove