

# An Act for securing Creditors,

Whereas there are Prisons in every County now  
built and forasmuch as they were intended for the safe  
keeping of Prisons that Creditors might be secured to have  
their debts paid after Judgement and Execution served  
and that Criminalls might be brought to condigne Punish-  
ment Be it Enacted by the King and Queens most Excellent  
Majesties by and with the Advice and Consent of their Right  
Generall Assembly and the Authority of the same That  
every Sherriſſ within this Province That shall have any  
Prisoner committed to his charge in any Criminall case  
whic<sup>h</sup> shall safe keep the said Prisoner until they be  
delivered by due course of Law, and if any Sherriſſ shall  
suffer any such Prisoners to escape voluntarily or negli-  
gently shall forfeit twenty thousand pounds of Tobacco,  
the one half thereof to their Majesties for the support  
of Government the other half to be employed in the  
strengthening the Prison of the County and maintenance  
of poor prisoners Be it further Enacted by the Authority  
aforesaid That when any person or persons are taken  
by the severall and respective Sherriſſes of the severall  
and respective Counties in Execution for debt or upon the  
mean process of the severall & respective Sherriſſes shall safely  
& restrain y<sup>e</sup> said Prison<sup>er</sup> by such means & in such Man<sup>er</sup> as Prison<sup>er</sup> is