

**MARYLAND**

At a Session of Assembly begun and held at the City of St. Mary's in this Majesty's Province of **MARYLAND** the 10th Day of May 1692, and in the Fourth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord and Lady **WILLIAM** and **MARY** by the Grace of **G O D** of **England Scotland France and Ireland** King and Queen Defenders of the Faith &c. His Excellency **LIONEL COPLEY** Esq. being their Governour in Chief and Captain General, These following Laws were Enacted, to the Honour and Glory of **G O D** and Welfare of this his Majesty's Province.

**AN ACT OF RECOGNITION**

**W**HERE Your Majesty's most Humble and Loyal Subjects of this your Majesty's Province of *Maryland*, the Governour and General Assembly, do Beseech your Most Excellent Majesty's that it may be published and declared in this General Assembly and Enacted by the Authority of the same, That We do Recognize and Acknowledge Your Majesty's are, and of Right ought to be by the Laws of the Realm of *England* our Sovereign Liege Lord and Lady King and Queen of *England Scotland France and Ireland* and the Dominions thereunto belonging, in and to whose Princely Persons the Royal Estate, Crown and Dignity of the said Realms, with all Honours, Styles, Titles, Regality's, Prerogatives, Powers, Jurisdictions, and Authority's to the same belonging and appertaining, are most Fully Rightfully and Intirely Invested and Incorporated United and Annexed.

*An Act providing what shall be good Evidence to prove Foreign Debts.*

**W**HEREAS divers People of the Kingdom of *England* and other places, have in their Hands Bonds of divers and sundry Persons now residing in this Province, and send them to certain Attorneys to be put in Suit against the said Debtors here, which for want of a Law to explain, and ascertain what shall be sufficient proof and Evidence for the proving the said Bonds to be the Act and Deed of the Debtors, and by them to be sealed and delivered, neither is there any way for the Debtors to discharge themselves of the same if they have satisfied the same, as by bringing the Creditor upon his Oath, to declare and set forth if he hath received the said Debts or any part thereof, or whether there be not any Accounts between the Creditor and Debtor, whereby he may discount the same, or to prove his Releases; the Witnesses living remote, and impossible to bring them *visa voce* to give their Testimony therein, which thing proves oftentimes very prejudicial to both Parties, to prevent which, and to give Redress therein for the future, **BE IT ENACTED** by the King and Queen's most Excellent Majesty's by and with the Advice and Consent of this present General Assembly and the Authority of the same, That all Debts of Record, whether by Judgment, Recognizance, Deed Enroled and upon Record, the Exemplification thereof under the Seal of the County's where the said Judgment was given, or the said Judgment was Recorded, shall be a sufficient Evidence to prove the same. And that all other Debts by Bonds, Bills, Accounts or otherwise, that shall from and after the publication hereof be sent hither to be put in Suit against any Person whatsoever, living or residing within this Province shall be proved by the Oaths of the Witnesses thereunto, by a Notary Publick or other Officer Lawfully Authorized thereunto of the County or Place whereforever it shall happen the said Bonds or Bills

*Expanded 1704.c.37*