

An Act prohibiting all Masters of Ships or Vessels or any other Persons from transporting or conveying away any person or persons out of this Province without Passes.

**B**E IT ENACTED by the King and Queens most Excellent Majesties by and with the Advice and Consent of this present General Assembly in full the Authority of the same, That from and after the publication hereof, no person or persons whatsoever intending to depart this Province, shall set up notice of his her or their intended departure by setting up his her or their Names at the Secretary's Office the full space of three Months, that if in the time aforesaid, no person shall under write the said person or persons so setting up his or their respective Name or Names as aforesaid, It shall then be Lawful for the Governour, Keeper of the great Seal, or Secretary of this Province for the time being, to Sign a Pass to any such person or persons to depart this Province, for which Pass the Party shall pay to the person signing the same the Sum of two Shillings and six pence Sterling, and if any person or persons upon any suddain or emergent occasion are necessitated to depart this Province, not having set up his her or their Name or Names at the Secretary's Office aforesaid, then such person or persons giving good and sufficient Security to the Governour, Keeper of the great Seal or Secretary to discharge and pay all Debts and Accounts whatsoever due and owing from the said persons to any of the Inhabitants, then the said person or persons so departing may have a Pass as aforesaid.

And Be It Further Enacted, that any Master of Ships or Vessels or other persons whatsoever, that shall transport or convey out of this Province, by Land or Water any Freeman being indebted by Bill, Bond, Accompt or otherwise to any Inhabitant thereof without such pass under the Hand of the Governour, Chancellor or Secretary aforesaid, shall be lyable to satisfie all such Debts, Ingagements and Damages to the person or persons to whom such Debt or Damages respectively shall be due within this Province, except the same be otherwise satisfied, or that the Transportor or Conveyor away of such person or persons procure such person or persons to return again in one Month after, whereby he may be lyable to justice here, and every such person as aforesaid as shall transport or convey away out of this Province any Servant or Servants being Servants here by Condition, for Wages, Indenture, or custom of the Country, shall be lyable for to pay & satisfie unto the Master or Owner of such Servant or Servants so carried away all such Damages as he or they shall make appear to be justly due, to such Master or Owner for want of such Servant or Servants as the Court before whom such cause shall be tryed shall think fit; And whereas several evil minded people inhabiting and residing at the Head of the Bay, have customarily set persons over the Head of the Bay, and *Susquehanna* River, being either Felons, Debtors, or Runaway Servants from the more remoter parts of this Province, for some small advantage they have in buying or getting such Money, Goods, or Apparel as such persons so absenting or flying from justice aforesaid have with them commonly Money, Goods, or Apparel by them feloniously purloyned from their Masters and other Owners, by which means they may have easy Access to another Government, in violation of justice, and to the great Damage of such Creditors, Masters of Owners aforesaid.

Be It therefore Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, by and with the Advice and Consent aforesaid, that from and after the publication hereof, no person or persons inhabiting or being at the Head of the Bay, or in any other part of this Province shall transport or convey, or cause to be transported or conveyed any person or persons over *Susquehanna* River aforesaid, or any other part of the Bay above the North side of *Sassafras* River on the Eastern side of the Bay not having passes so procured as aforesaid, or a Certificate from under the Hands of two Justices of the Peace of that County where such person or persons intending to travel shall reside and the County Seal affixed thereunto, certifying the freedom of such persons, and that he she or they are clear to the best of their knowledge from any ingagements impeding their traveling as aforesaid, on penalty of answering all such Debt or Damages to Creditors, Masters or other Owners of Servants to be recovered as by this Law is provided, against such as shall actually set on foot any of this Province, any matter or thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.