

according to Act of Assembly, either out of his Estate or by Servitude or otherwise, provided always that this Act shall not extend to malefactors that are executed, or to such other persons who are banish'd having no Estate in this Province, or Servants Criminals, for whom the Country shall pay the fees due to the Sherrif Goaler, Clerk, Cryer and other Officers of such Court where such Criminal shall be convicted.

And Be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that all Officers fees due from Criminal Servants shall be paid by the County where the fact shall be committed and that all and every such Criminal Servant for whom the County shall pay the fees due to such Officers as aforesaid, shall after the end and expiration of his time of servitude to his Master satisfie unto the Commissioners of the County who paid such his fees for him to the Sherrif and other Officers as aforesaid, for the use of such County such sums as they have paid as aforesaid, and the severall Commissioners of the severall Countys shall and are hereby impower'd to make inquisition after all such Servants Criminals for whom the County hath defray'd the said fees to the Sherrif and other Officers as aforesaid, and they the said Commissioners according to their best discretion shall order for the said Servants to make such reasonable satisfaction to the County as they shall think fit, & in such manner as they shall most conveniently, And for the better security of the County which shall pay such fees for such Criminal Servants as aforesaid,

It is further enacted that the Master, Mistress or Dame of all such Servants be & are hereby bound & required at the expiration of the time of such Servants servitude to such Master, Mistress or Dame to render up and deliver to the Justice or Justices of the County or Justice of the County aforesaid such Servants Criminal as aforesaid under the penalty to such Master, Mistress or Dame refusing or neglecting to deliver up such Servant as aforesaid, of making satisfaction and paying to the County all such fees as by the County aforesaid have been paid for such Criminals as aforesaid, and such Justice or Justices to whom such Criminal Servant shall be delivered as aforesaid, are likewise required to serve such Servants Criminals as aforesaid in such manner and way as to the said Justice or Justices shall seem meet or convenient, so that he be and appear at the then next County Court to be held for the said County to be disposed on as the Court shall consider.

*An Act for preventing vexatious and unnecessary Suits at Law, and for proving of debts and pleading discount in Bar.*

39 Nov 6th 1766

WHEREAS divers and sundry persons within this Province contract debts by accounts with Merchants and others, for which they stand bound only upon their book of Account, the which tho' they be honest and willing to pay the same upon demand first had and required of the said creditor by the creditor or other persons lawfully authorized to receive the same, yet some of them are responsible for the said debtor to know where or to whom to pay the same, yet several of the said creditors through vexatious and avaritious humors needlessly commence their Suits at Law against such their debtors, with such damages of such their debts of their said debtors, whereby the said debtors are much troubled and are thereby greatly burthened and impoverished by means of their vexatious and unjust Suits in Law.

AND WHEREAS THE KING IS PLEASED by the Kings most Excellent Majesty by and with the Advice and Consent of this present General Assembly and the Authority of the same, that from and after the publication of this Act any person or persons who shall hereafter be or Administrators living or trading into this Province shall be bound to pay to the creditor to him by account book or otherwise, and to the creditor's debt which he shall demand of such his creditor, first or compound at Law with such debtor for any such debt contracted as aforesaid, and not to be paid on behalf of such debtor as aforesaid, unless he shall first demand & receive the same of the said debtor in the County where he shall inhabit, to prove which demand the creditor or Administrators own oath shall be sufficient, but if the debtor be not at home to help pay the same, then such demand shall leave a note under the hand of the creditor or demandant, or those he shall impower to receive the same, which note and note when made shall be paid, and if thereupon the same shall not be lawfully paid, then it shall and may be lawful for such creditor to sue and