

WHEREAS there have been severall Acts provided for Runaways, Runaways which have hereto proved ineffectual, in regard they do not sufficiently provide encouragement for such person or persons inhabitants of this Province as shall seize such runaways or servants by this Act deemed runaways, therefore for the better discovery, seizing and apprehending such runaways,

B E I T E N A C T E D by the Kings most Excellent Majesty by and with the Advice and Consent of this present General Assembly & the Authority of the same, that from & after the publication hereof no servant or servants whatsoever within this Province whether by Indenture or according to the custom of the country or hired for wages, shall travel by land or water ten miles from the house of his her or their Master Mistress or Dame without a neat under their hands, or under the hand of his or their Overseer if any be, under the penalty of being taken for a runaway, and to suffer such penalties as are hereafter provided against runaways.

And it is hereby further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that any such servant or servants as aforesaid unlawfully absenting him her or them from his her or their said Master, Mistress, Dame or Overseer shall serve ten days for every one days absence, to be judged when such Master, Mistress or Dame shall bring their said servant before the Justices of the Provincial or County Court where the owner master or dame or overseer of such servant shall live during the sitting of the Court, be it before or after the expiration of such servants first time of service by Indenture or otherwise.

And Be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that any person or persons whatsoever that shall wittingly and willingly detain any such servant or servants unlawfully absenting him her or themselves as aforesaid, shall be fined 50 pounds of tobacco for every night or four and twenty hours that such person or persons shall give entertainment to such servant or servants unlawfully absenting him her or themselves as aforesaid, the one half to his Majesty for the support of Government, and the other half to the informer or him or them that shall sue for the same, to be recovered in any County Court of this Province by Action of debt, bill plaint or information, wherein no essoyn protection or wager of Law to be allow'd.

And for the better discovery of runaways, it is hereby Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that any person or persons whatsoever within this Province traveling out of the County where he she or they shall live or reside without a pass under the Seal of the said County, for which they are to pay ten pounds of tobacco or one shilling in money, such person or persons if apprehended not being sufficiently known, or able to give a good account of themselves, to be left to the discretion & judgment of such Magistrate or Magistrates before whom such person or persons as aforesaid shall be brought to judge thereof, and if before such Magistrate shall be deemed and taken as a runaway, and shall suffer such fines and penalties as is hereby provided against runaways.

And for the better encouragement of all persons to seize and take up such runaways, it is Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that all and every person or persons as aforesaid, seizing or taking up such runaways traveling without pass as aforesaid, not being able to give a sufficient account of themselves as aforesaid shall have and receive two hundred pounds of tobacco to be paid by the owner of such runaway so apprehended and taken up if a Servant, and if a Freeman & refusing to pay the same, then to make satisfaction by servitude or otherwise as the Justices of the Provincial or County Courts where such person shall be so apprehended and taken up shall think fit, and further, for the better discovery and encouragement of our Neighbour Indians to seize, apprehend or take up any runaway servants, and bring them before some Magistrat, shall for a reward have a matchcoat paid him or them or the value thereof which said reward to be repaid & satisfied by the County where such person shall be apprehended, and such runaway to reimburse the said County by servitude or otherwise as the Justices of the Provincial or county court shall think fit.

And Be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that at what time soever any of the said persons runaway shall be seized by any person or persons within this Province, such person or persons so apprehending or seizing the same shall