

shall be obliged at the next Council after receiving any Sheriff's Bond or Bonds into the Secretary's Office, to lay the same before his Excellency the Governour of this Province, for the time being, for his Approbation or Disallowance of the Securities taken by the County-Courts. And the said Commissioners are hereby Required and enjoyned to take new Security yearly, and every Year of such Sheriffs so long as they shall continue in the said Office, and transmit the same, as aforesaid, having a special Regard not to admit any Person to be Security, as aforesaid, but such as are good and substantial Free-holders within their Counties; and also to make the Obligation of such Bond, so to be taken from any Sheriff, answerable to the Publick Charge of their respective Counties, which penalty shall not be less than Two Hundred Thousand Pounds of Tobacco, as aforesaid.

And to be laid before the Governour and Council for approbation.

New security yearly, and how.

And for the Encouragement of such Persons now bearing, or that shall hereafter bear the Office of Sheriff, and who shall punctually comply with the publick Creditor, *It is also hereby further Enacted by the Authority, Advice and Consent aforesaid;* That it shall and may be Lawful for his Majestie's Governour, for the time being, where no just Complaint is made against such Sheriff, to continue and make good their Commission for the time and term of three Years successively, but no Longer.

Sheriff may be continued 3 Years

*And be it further Enacted by and with the Advice and Consent aforesaid;* That if any High-Sheriff or High-Sheriffs being indebted to any Person or Persons, shall refuse to discount or allow the same out of any publick or County Levy due from such Person or Persons, but will, notwithstanding the said Debt being due from the Sheriff, take the Body or Goods of such Person in Execution, shall be liable to be prosecuted in an Action of Trespass or false Imprisonment, as the case shall require.

Obliged to make discount.

*And be it further Enacted,* That the High Sheriff of every respective County shall be liable to be sued, as aforesaid, for his own or any of his Deputie's Offence or Offences against this Act and the Debts mentioned, which the Sheriffs may owe to any the Inhabitants, are to be understood of such Debts as are assigned to the Inhabitants in the Publick County or Parish Levy or *Forty per poll*, as aforesaid, or due from the High-Sheriff by Bill, Bond, Note or Account proved, any Law, Usage or Custom to the Contrary notwithstanding.

Sheriff Answerable for his Deputy's Offences, and for what Debt he may be sued.

*And whereas* there have been divers great Complaints from several parts of this Province to the General Assembly, of several Sheriffs and Sub-Sheriffs, That have Exacted and Extorted great Sums of Tobacco above their due and lawful Fees ascertained by the Acts of Assembly of this Province, from several of the Inhabitants thereof, and tho' the Laws of this Province have Inflicted a severe Penalty upon any Officer that shall charge and receive more than his due Fees, yet the said Officers have most cunningly and craftily evaded the said Laws, by taking Bills or Writings Obligatory, without ever Delivering any Account signed under their Hands as the Law Directs, so that the Party grieved cannot Sufficiently prove the said Extortion, and is thereby left without Remedy; For Prevention whereof,

Sheriffs and their Deputies to endorse all Bonds with the Account for what taken.

*Be it Enacted by the Authority, Advice and Consent aforesaid,* That no Sheriff or Sub-Sheriff within this Province, after the Publication of this Act, in their several and respective Counties wherein they dwell, shall take any Bond, Bill, or any other Writing Obligatory, of any Person or Persons, upon any Pretence whatsoever, without endorsing the Account on the Back of the said Bond, Bill or Writing Obligatory, for which the same was passed; and if any Sheriff or Sub-