

At a Sessions of Assembly begun and held at the City of *Annapolis*, in the County of *Ann-Arundel*, the Twenty Eighth Day of *October*, in the Eleventh Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lady *ANNE*, Queen of *Great-Britain, France* and *Ireland*, Defender of the Faith, &c. Annoq; Domini One Thousand Seven Hundred and Twelve; The Honourable *Edward Lloyd*, Esq; being President of her Majesty's Council of the Province aforesaid, were enacted the Laws following, *viz.*

An ACT restraining Victuallers and Keepers of Publick-Houses from entertaining Sailors to the Prejudice of Trade and Commerce.

Proposed by an act made 28th 11th Mo 1731

WHEREAS the Masters and Commanders of the several Merchant Ships trading into this Province, and the several Merchants and Traders therein have represented unto this General Assembly, That several Persons keeping Victualling-

Houses or Publick Houses of Entertainment, for Lucre and Gain, do make it their Practice to draw in and entertain the Sea-Men belonging to the several Ships, and give them too great Credit, not only to the Ruin of them, their Wives and Children, but also to the Hindrance of the Ships Lading, whereby the Charge of the Ships are greatly augmented, and Trade in general delayed and discouraged: For the Prevention whereof;

Be it Enacted, by the Queen's most excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of Her Majesty's President, Council and Assembly of this Province, and the Authority of the same, That if any Victualler, or Keeper of any Publick-House within this Province, shall, after the First Day of *January* next, trust any Sea-faring Man, Sailor or Sea-Man, (not being an Inhabitant of this Province, and generally residing in the same) for any Sum or Sums of Money above the Value of Five Shillings in any Voyage, without Leave or Licence from the Commander of the Ship or Vessel to which he belongs, upon Pain of loosing their Debt; and if such Victualler or other Person keeping a Publick-House, shall take any Bond, Bill, Note or Bill of Exchange, or any other Speciality or Obligation for any Debt contracted by any Sailor or Sea-Man belonging to any Ship or Vessel, and not being an Inhabitant as aforesaid, such Bond, Bill, Note or Bill of Exchange, or other Speciality or Obligation, shall be void and of no Effect.

And be it further Enacted, by the Authority, Advice and Consent aforesaid, That if any Victualler or Keeper of any Publick-House, as aforesaid, shall entertain or harbour any Sailor or Sea-Man, without Licence from the Master or Commander of the Ship or Vessel to which he belongs, to the Delay and Hindrance of the Business of such Ship or Vessel, or the Commanders thereof, such Victualler or Keeper of a Publick House, or House

No Victualler or Keeper of a publick House to trust any Sailor,

For above 5 s. per Voyage without leave.

The Penalty is loss of Debt, and Obligations taken for such Debts are void.

Marshall such Persons harbour Sailors