

*An ACT for the more Speedy conveying publick Letters and Pacquets of this Province, and defraying the Charge thereof, and to prevent the Abuses of breaking open and concealing any Letters whatsoever.*

**F**ORASMUCH as several of the Inhabitants of this Province have been formerly subject to great and manifest Inconveniences, by pressing of Horses ( under Pretext of carrying and conveying publick Letters and Pacquets: ) For Prevention whereof, and that due Care may be taken for the future, that all publick Letters and Pacquets, relating to her Majesty's or the publick Service of this Province, be securely and expeditiously conveyed, according to their Directions, the Delegates of this present general Assembly do pray that it may be enacted,

*And be 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 the Sheriff of each respective County, is hereby Enjoyed and Comanded to take Care of all Publick Letters and Pacquets, and expeditiously convey them according to their respective Directions to the next Sheriff or Under-Sheriff of next adjacent County.*

And for the Encouragement of the several and respective Sheriffs, and their Diligence in conveying such Publick Letters and Pacquets, that they may be allowed the several Sums hereafter expressed, to be laid in the Publick Levy of this Province, ( that is to say ) To the Sheriff of *Ann-Arundel*, *Fifteen Hundred Pounds of Tobacco*, who is hereby obliged to convey all such Letters and Pacquets as are directed and must go over to the Eastern Shore to *Kent Island*, and there to be delivered to the Sheriff of *Queen Ann's County*, or his Deputy. To the Sheriff of *Queen Ann's County*, *Fourteen Hundred Pounds of Tobacco*, who is hereby also obliged to convey all such Letters and Pacquets as are directed to the City of *Annapolis*, to the said City. To the Sheriff of *Cecil County*, *One Thousand Pounds of Tobacco*, who is also obliged to convey all such Letters and Pacquets as are directed to the Northward, to the Town of *New-Castle upon Delaware*. To the Sheriff of *Talbot County*, *Eight Hundred Pounds of Tobacco*. To the Sheriff of *Kent County*, *Six Hundred Pounds of Tobacco*. To the Sheriff of *Dorchester County*, *Six Hundred Pounds of Tobacco*. And to the Sheriff of *Somerset County*, *Six Hundred Pounds of Tobacco*. To the Sheriff of *Calvert County*, *Eight Hundred Pounds of Tobacco*. To the Sheriff of *Charles County*, *Eight Hundred Pounds of Tobacco*. To the Sheriff of *St. Mary's County*, *Eight Hundred Pounds of Tobacco*. To the Sheriff of *Prince George's County*, *Six Hundred Pounds of Tobacco*. And to the Sheriff of *Baltimore County*, *Six Hundred Pounds of Tobacco*. Which said several and respective Sums of Tobacco shall be Annually allowed and paid to the Sheriffs aforesaid; in Consideration whereof the Sheriffs of the said several and respective Counties shall defray all such Charges as shall accrue by reason of conveying of such Letters or Pacquets, any former Law, Usage or Custom to the Contrary notwithstanding.

The Sheriff of each County to convey publick Pacquets, &c. for the allowances mentioned.

And to defray all publick Charges thereon accruing.

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