

An ACT relating to Servants and Slaves.

WHEREAS there have been several Acts provided against Servants, Run-aways, which have hereto proved ineffectual, in regard they do not sufficiently provide Encouragement for such Person or Persons Inhabitants of this Province, as should seize such Run-aways or Servants, by this Act deemed Run-aways: Therefore, for the better Discovery, Seizing and Apprehending such Run-aways,

Be it Enacted, by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of His Majesty's Governour, Council and Assembly of this Province, and the Authority of the same, That from and 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 by Water Ten Miles from the House of his, her, or their Master, Mistress or Dame, without a Note under their Hands, or under the Hand of his or their Overseer, if any be, under the Penalty of being taken for a Run-away, and to suffer such Penalties as are hereafter provided against Run-aways.

No Servants to travel without a Note.

And it is hereby further Enacted, by the Authority, Advice and Consent aforesaid, That any Servant or Servants, unlawfully absenting him, her, or themselves, from his, her, or their said Master, Mistress, Dame, or Overseer, shall make such Satisfaction by Servitude, or otherwise, at the Discretion of the Justices of the County-court, where such Run-away Servant did dwell, not exceeding Ten Days Service for any One Day's Absence; with such reasonable Cost for his, her, or their Taking-up, as the Court shall think fit, be it before or after the Expiration of such Servant's first Time of Servitude, by Indenture or otherwise.

On Pain of being deemed a Run-away.

Run aways to serve 10 Days for One or less at Discretion. And for Costs.

Be it further Enacted, by the Authority, Advice or Consent aforesaid, That any Person or Persons whatsoever, that shall wittingly or willingly entertain any such Servant or Slave unlawfully absenting him, her or themselves, as aforesaid, shall be fined Five Hundred Pounds of Tobacco, for every Night or Twenty-Four Hours, that such Person or Persons shall give such Entertainment as aforesaid; the one half to his Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, 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 allowed.

Persons that entertain Servants or Slaves to be fined 500 l. of Tobacco for every 24 Hours.

And be it further Enacted, That if any free Negro or Mulatto shall harbour or entertain any such Servant or Slave, as aforesaid, in every such case he or they so offending, shall forfeit and pay, as aforesaid, for every such Offence, the Sum of One Thousand Pounds of Tobacco; the one half to our Sovereign Lord the King, his Heirs and Successors, for the Use of the Free-Schools; the other half to the Party grieved; to be recovered

Negro or Mulatto entertaining as aforesaid, fined 1000 l. Tobacco.