

*An ACT directing the Manner of electing and summoning Delegates and Representatives to serve in succeeding Assemblies; and for ascertaining the Expences of the Councillours, Delegates of Assembly, and Commissioners of the Provincial and County-Courts of this Province.*

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The usefulness of Laws.

And the necessity of Delegates to make them.

The best Rules for Elections, are the Precedents of English Parliaments.

Writs of Election to Issue.

**F**ORASMUCH as the chief and only Foundation and Support of any Kingdom, State or Common-Wealth, is the providing, establishing and enacting good and wholesome Laws, for the good Rule and Government thereof, and also upon any necessary or emergent Occasion, to raise and levy Money for defraying the Charge of the said Government, and the Defence thereof, neither of which, according to the Constitution of this Province, can be made, ordained, established or raised, but by and with the Consent of the Free-Men of this Province, by their several Delegates and Representatives by them freely nominated, chosen and elected to serve for their several Cities and Counties in a General Assembly.

And forasmuch as the safest and best Rule for this Province in electing such Delegates and Representatives, is the Precedents of the Proceedings in Parliament in *Great-Britain*, as near as the Constitution of this Province will admit, the Governour, Upper and Lower Houses of this present General Assembly do humbly pray that it may be enacted,

And be it Enacted, by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the Advice and Consent of his Lordship's Governour, and the Upper and Lower Houses of this present General Assembly, and by the Authority of the same, That for the Future, when and as often as his Excellency the Governour of this Province, for the Time being, shall, upon any Accident or urgent Affair of this Province, think fit to call and convene an Assembly, and to send out Writs for electing of Burgesses and Delegates to serve in such Assembly, such Writs shall issue forth Forty Days at least, before the Meeting of such Assembly; The Form of which Writs for Election of Delegates and Representatives, shall be as followeth,

In this Form. **C**HARLES, Absolute Lord and Proprietary of the Provinces of Maryland and Avalon, Lord Baron of Baltimore, &c. To the Sheriff of \_\_\_\_\_ County, Greeting. These are to command, authorize and empower you, immediately upon Receipt hereof, to call together Three or more Justices of your County, whereof One to be of the Quorum, with the Clerk of the County-Court, who are hereby required to sit as a Court, and during their Sitting, by Virtue of your Office, to make, or cause to be made publick Proclamation, thereby giving Notice to all the Free-Men of your said County, who have within the said County a Freehold of Fifty Acres of Land, or who shall be Residents, and have a visible Estate of Forty Pounds Sterling at the least, thereby requiring them to appear at your County Court-House, at a certain Time, not less than Ten Days after such Proclamation made, for electing and choosing Deputies and Delegates to serve for your said County in a General Assembly, to be holden at—the—Day of—to which Time you shall adjourn your said Court; and during the Court's sitting,

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