

ACT for the more speedy conveying publick Letters and Pacquets of the Province, and defraying the Charges thereof; & to prevent the Abuses of breaking open Letters or concealing them.

*Passed October 27th, 1713:*

THE Sheriff of each respective County is enjoyned and commanded 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 the next adjacent County.

FOR their Encouragement the following Sums are allowed them on that Account, to be laid in the publick Levies of the Province viz.

To the Sheriff of *Ann Arundel*, *One Thousand Five Hundred Pounds* of Tobacco, who is obliged to convey all such Letters as are directed, and must go to the *Eastern Shore*; to *Kent Island*, there to be delivered to the Sheriff of *Queen Ann's County* or his Deputy.

To the Sheriff of *Queen Ann's County*, *One Thousand Four Hundred Pounds* of Tobacco, who is 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 obliged to convey all such Letters and Pacquets as are directed to the Northward, to the Town of *New Castle on Delaware*.

To the Sheriff of *Talbot County*, *Eight Hundred Pounds* of Tobacco.

To the Sheriff of *Dorchester County*, *Six Hundred Pounds* of Tobacco.

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 respective above Sums shall be annually paid to the Sheriffs aforesaid, in Consideration of and for their defraying all such Charges, as shall accrue by Reason of conveying such publick Letters and Pacquets.

ALL such publick Letters and Pacquets shall be indorsed for the Lord Proprietary's Service, and with the Persons Name who sends them; and whoever shall indorse, as aforesaid, any Letter or Paquet, which is not for the publick Service, shall forfeit and pay for such Offence, *Five Hundred Pounds* of Tobacco, to be recovered in the Lord Proprietary's Name, in any Court of Record.

ALL Letters directed to the Governor for the Time being, indorsed for the Lord Proprietary's Service, all Letters sent by the Governor, indorsed as above, and having his or the Clerk of Councils Name indorsed, all Letters by any of the Council, indorsed as said is, all Letters by the Speaker or Clerk to the House of Delegates for the Time being