

Want, or otherwise become a burthen to others: And inasmuch as giving Freedom to Slaves, by any last Will and Testament may be attended with many Evils: It is therefore humbly prayed, that it may be Enacted,

It is Enacted, That it shall not be lawful for any Person or Persons within this Province; to give or grant Freedom to any Slave or Slaves disabled to work, or gain a sufficient Livelyhood and Maintainance, but that in all such Cases, any Master, Mistress or Owner of such Slave or Slaves, at the proper Cost and Charge of such Master, Mistress or other Persons owning such Slave or Slaves, shall support and maintain such Slave or Slaves, during the natural Life or Lives of such Slave or Slaves, in Food and Cloathing fitting and needful for such Slave or Slaves; whereby he, she or they, may not become a Burthen to others, or perish through Want, to the great Scandel of Christian Society.

THAT it shall not be lawful for any Person or Persons within this Province, by any verbal Order, or by his, her or their last Will and Testament, or by any other Instrument in Writing in his, her or their last Sicknes, whereof he, she or they shall die, to give or grant Freedom to any Slave or Slaves: And if any Person or Persons, after the Time aforesaid, shall by any verbal Order, or by his, her or their last Will and Testament, or by any other Writing or Instrument in his her or their last Sicknes, whereof he, she or they shall die, give Freedom to any Slave or Slaves, such Order, Will, or other Writing, shall be void and of no Effect, so far as relates to such Freedom or Mannumission only.

THAT if any Master, Mistress, Owner or Owners of any Slave or Slaves, grown old and incapable of Labour, or otherwise disabled by Sicknes or Accident, shall neglect to provide for such old or disabled Slave, necessary Food and Cloathing, or shall suffer any Slave or Slaves whatsoever to depart from his, her or their respective Habitation or Quarter, or to wander about begging, whereby such Slave or Slaves may become burthensome to the Neighbourhood, wherein they have resided, or others: It shall and may be lawful for the County Court where such Master, Mistress, Owner or Owners of such Slave or Slaves shall reside; upon Presentment of the Grand-Jury, to issue their Warrant against such Master, Mistress, Owner or Owners of such Slave or Slaves and to cause such Master, Mistress, Owner or Owners of such Slave or Slaves, to appear before them; and if upon Examination in a summary Way, it shall appear to such Court, that such Master, Mistress, Owner or Owners of such Slave or Slaves, did not provide necessary Food and Cloathing, or did suffer such Slave or Slaves to depart and wander, contrary to the Intent and Meaning of this Act; such Court is hereby directed and impowered to cause such Master, Mistress, Owner or Owners of such Slave or Slaves, to enter into Recognizance in the Penalty of *Four Pounds* Current Money to be taken to, and in the Name of the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary for the Time being, and his Successors for the Use of such County; with Condition that