

Province: wherein no Essoine, wager, nor protection in Law
to be allowed. This Act to endure for three years, or to the
end of the next year's Assembly wh^{ch} shall first happen.

May
1646.

An Act for securing Creditors.

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Whereas there are now Prisons built in every County; and forasmuch as they were intended for the safe keeping of Prisoners, that Creditors might be secured to have their debts paid after Judgment and Execution executed, and that Criminals might be brought to condign punishment,

Be it Enacted by the Right hon^{ble} y^e Lord Prop^r by and with the advice and Consent of the Upper and Lower houses of this present year's Assembly, That every Sheriff within this Province that shall have any Prisoner committed to his charge in any Criminal Cause whatsoever shall safely keep the said Prisoner or Prisoners committed to his charge till they be delivered by due Course of Law; and if any Sheriff shall suffer any such Prisoner to escape voluntarily or negligently, shall forfeit twenty thousand Pounds of Tobacco to the R^t. hon^{ble} y^e Lord Prop^r: the one halfe thereof to be imployed in strengthening the Prison of the County the other towards the maintenance of poor Prisoners.

Be it further Enacted by the authority, and by & with the advice and Consent aforesaid, That when any person or persons are taken by the severall and respective Sheriffs of the severall and respective Counties in Execution for debt, or upon other means processes, the said severall and respective Sheriffs shall safely keep and Returne the said Prisoners, by
such means