

An Act for the better Administration of Justice in the County

Another Law of this Tenor being made in 1715 - This was repealed

Court of Chancery provincial and County Courts Speedy Recovery of Debts directing how small Debts shall be recovered and for the more obtaining of Execution against persons absconding from the County where the Judgments were obtained against them.

Be it enacted by His most Excellent Majesty by and with the Advice and Consent of His Majestys Governour Council and Assembly of this Province and the Authority of the same that the Justices of the Peace and respective County Courts do with all Convenience Speed after the publication of this Act at the Costs and Charges of their respective Counties purchase and procure the Statute Books of England to this Time and Statutes in force of the Peace where they are not already procured for the use of their respective County Courts.

Be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that the Justices of each respective County Court by force and virtue of this Act may make such Rules and Orders from time to time for the well governing and regulating their said Courts and the Officers and Suitors thereof as to them in their Discretion shall seem most and under such Fines and forfeitures as they shall think fit not exceeding one hundred pounds of Tobacco for any one Offence all which Fines and Forfeitures shall be to the Use towards the defraying the County Charge.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid that every Debt or Debts of Money or Tobacco due to any person being above the Sum of two hundred and not above the Sum of ten thousand pounds of Tobacco and being above the Sum of fifteen Shillings and eight pence and not above the Sum of fifty pounds Sterling in Money whereof the Plaintiff is desirous of a speedy recovery against the Defendant his Debts in the County Court he shall proceed against such ~~Debts~~ Defendant in manner and form following (that is to say) at the same time that the Plaintiff sues out his Writ against the Defendant he shall file with the County Clerk his Declaration thereof And the Clerk shall make a Copy of the said Declaration and deliver the same to the Plaintiff with the Writ and if he cannot serve the said Writ upon the Defendant and deliver to the Defendant the Copy of the Plaintiffs Declaration eight days before the Return of the said Writ the Defendant shall be obliged by virtue of this Act to go to trial with the Plaintiff in which the Writ is returned and shall not have any Impedance or Delay