

An Act for building a Prison at
St Marys

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Forasmuch as due respect to y^e Governmt is
not given for want of prisons to restrayne of
fendes & persons indebted take us care for discharge
their debts for y^e same Reason Be it enacted that
there be four acres of land next to all the spring
on y^e East side of St Marys field be allotted to build
a prison upon that there be ten thousand pounds
of tobacco rayld out of y^e provinces this next on
finding fees to be layd out upon building a prison
upon y^e afores^d four acres of land And in regard Ray-
mond Staplefort hath undertaken to build y^e said Pris-
on upon condition he may be keeper of y^e said Prison
during life, Be it further enacted that the y^e said Raymond
Staplefort have the ten thousand pounds of tobacco paid
unto him he giving sufficient security that the y^e said Prison
shall be well & sufficiently built at St Marys churchyard
before y^e 23th April 1664 & that he should give
all other necessaryes for y^e restraining & safe keeping
offenders that then he have a patent under y^e great
Seale of this province to be keeper of y^e said Prison
for during y^e termes of his naturall life.

And for y^e further Encouragem^t of him y^e said Staplefort
to build the Prison aforesaid so necessary for y^e
Administration of Justice Be it further enacted that
all Criminals arrested of any Offence whatsoever in
any pt. of this Province the punishment of which can
any way touch the person arrested in his life or member
& not payable by y^e laws of England shall be by
Justice or Justices Justices of peace before whom he is
arrested immediately sent by mittimus to y^e Prison at St
Marys there to be kept in safe custody till he shall be
be delivered by due order of law, And for this better
Recovering