

That no Wager nor Protection in Lawe to be Allowed This
for three yeares or to the end of the next Gen^l Assembly which
shall happen

An Act relating to the Seizure of Tobacco by the Sheriff

Forasmuch as great Complaints have been made to the Burgeses and
Delegates of the lower house of Assembly of the many & great inconveniences
that have lately happened & doe daily & for the future may happen & are
to many Merchants Masters & other persons trading into & residing in
Inhabiting within this Province, who having severall debts & Summes
of Tobacco due unto them from severall persons in this Province, who for
satisfaction of their said debts have paid away & delivered to their severall
Creditors severall quantities & hogheads of Tobacco, & such hogheads of Tobacco
have been received marked & nailed by such Merchants Masters and
others trading into & residing in this Province as aforesaid, & thereupon
the said Creditors have delivered up to the said Debtors their Bills
or other specialties given for security of the said debts or otherwise, the said
Debtors have procured releases & Discharges for the debts, yet notwithstanding
afterwards the severall Sheriffs within this Province upon pretence of
publique Debts due from the said Persons Debtors have seized the said
Tobacco so received marked & nailed & lying in the said Debtors
houses, & by that means the said Creditors are left without remedy for
recovery of their said Debts against to the great hindrance of Justice
of such Creditors. And forasmuch also as the People of this Province are
very much grieved by the severall and bad practices of severall Sheriffs
of this Province, who having authority to collect his Lordships Rents
& the Publique Levies of this Province which many times amount
a small Summe of Tobacco, & coming to the severall Persons within the
Province to demand & receive the same, & not finding Tobacco ready
paytt doe commonly make the Inhabitants Tobacco houses where there are
large greater quantities of Tobacco than will pay the said Rents & Levies
& order them not to dispose of any the said Tobacco till the same Rents or
Levies be paid, whereby the said Inhabitants are debarred from
out their said Tobacco where they conveniently may & upon necessity
required, to their great losse & damage, for the prevention whereof
the future Be it Enacted by the Right Hon^{ble} the Lord Proprietary
this Province by & with the advice & consent of the upper & lower houses
this present Gen^l Assembly & the authority of the same, that any person
whatsoever Merchant or others within this Province that has
any time within these twelve Months last past received marked
or for the future shall receive marks & Nails any hogheads of
within this Province of any persons Debtors within this Province
which hath been paid & delivered to them for satisfaction of
debts, & such Merchants & others have upon the receipt marked
nailing of such hogheads of Tobacco delivered up to their
Debtors their Bills or other securities passed by the said
said Debtors Or if the said Merchants & others