

149 The Sheriff of Calvert County for above three years past and  
still continues in the like deplorable Circumstances not being  
able to Redeem his body with all the Estate or Interest he had  
in the words which he would readily Surrender up and part with  
to his Creditors if they would accept of this and and grant  
him his Liberty but that although he hath often made such  
offers with many repeated Intreaties that they might be  
Accepted of yet he has not been favoured with the grant of  
his Requests in that behalfs but Instead thereof of flat denials  
of any manner of Favour from the Chiefes of them so that  
unless some relief be provided for him by a particular Act to  
be past in his favour which by his said Petition he shall  
humbly Prayed for he fears he shall continue a prisoner  
for life and and by <sup>that</sup> means his wife and four small Children  
become a burthen to the County for necessary Sustainance  
+ to preserve them from Starving and for that the Truth of  
the said Peter Sawell's Allegation is indeed appear to this  
Generall Assembly by Sufficient Testimony and also that  
the said Peter has not fallen under such Circumstances by  
any Felonys or Extravagancy of his own having been  
always an industrious pains taking planter but merely  
by his Losses at Sea and the Extream decay of the Tobacco  
Trade and also that the said Peter is a man of an honest sober  
Conversation AND therefore for that the said Peter and  
his family are thought fitt Objects of Charity and that  
his Lying in Goals can be no benefit to his Creditors tho  
it may prove a ruin to his family and a burthen to the County  
It is humbly <sup>prayed</sup> that the said Peter may be releived according to his  
prayer and that it may be enacted And be it enacted by the  
Kings most Excellent Majesty by and with the Advice and Consent  
of his Majestys Governour Council and Assembly of this Province  
and the Authority of y<sup>e</sup> same that unless all or any of the Creditors  
of the said Peter Sawell or their atty or Attornys within this Province  
within three months after the End of this Session of Assembly go to  
the Sheriff of Calvert County and Give good Security to pay  
the Imprisonment fees at ten pounds of Tobacco per day that shall