

212 impracticable from the great scarcity of it amongst us & that it would not only tend much to the disappointment of his Lordship in the receipt of his rents but also to the oppression of such Tenants as should hold their lands under conditions of such punctual payment as the Tenour of their Grants requires & to the disinheriting many who would be obliged to surrender their Estates for want of a ability to comply therewith. which in all probability would put a great check to the future Cultivation of the remote & forest Lands of this Province & be a Cause to sedate of those remote Inhabitants to desert (yet but poor) improvements to the lessening the revenue of the Crown & discouraging the Enlargement of his Majesty's dominions in these parts all which Inconveniences this present General Assembly most earnestly desire may be provided against - And for as much as the ~~of the~~ quantity of Tobacco now usually reported or which may be reported in a Hogshead of the Gauge by this Act settled exceeds the quantity which was commonly reputed to be the Contents of a Hogshead at the time when the aforesaid Twelve pence per Hogshead was settled on his Lordship's Ancestors for the making easy the payment of his rents & fines for Alienations aforesaid & also for that the Number of Hogsheads annually reported are increased since that time yet for that the Value of his sd Lordship's rents are much more increased It is most humbly prayed that it may be enacted

And be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty by & with the Advice & Consent of his Majesty's Governour Council & Assembly of this Province & the Authority of the same that from & after the twentieth day of September next there shall be raised levied & collected for every Hogshead of Tobacco which shall be shipped in any Ship or Vessel to be reported out of this Province or any the Territory's Islands Ports Rivers Creeks or places thereunto belonging the summe of Eighteen pence Sterling & for every hundred weight of Tobacco reported in Box Chest Barrell or Case three pence sterl & so pro rata for a greater or lesser quantity to the King's most Excellent Majesty his heirs & Successors for the uses hereafter mentioned (over & above the aforesaid fifteen pence per Hogshead herein before imposed) in lieu & stead of the twelve pence Sterling formerly imposed on every Hogshead & applied to the use of the late Lord Proprietary: & that the same Duty of Eighteen pence per Hogshead shall after the twentieth day of September aforesaid from time to time be paid & satisfied to the said all & respective Navall officers of this Province for the time being by the Master or Masters of every such Ship or Vessel respectively in which any such Tobacco shall be reported on or after the twentieth day of September aforesaid during the Continuance of this Act upon his or their Clearing or taking out his or their dispatch or