

An Act for Relief of Elizabeth Major of Prince Georges County by her Petition  
her Notwithstanding her Coverture to lease for her life the Lands therein mentioned

WHEREAS Elizabeth Major by her Petition has humbly set forth to this Present General Assembly that her former husband James Brooke of the County aforesaid Gent Died Intestate so that Right of Dowry of and in all the Lands the said James was seized of at the Time of his Death devolved to her and that some time after the Death of the said James she Intermarried with a Certain William Joseph late of the County aforesaid Gent now also Deceased whose in his life time and Roger Brooke together with a Son of the said James it was agreed by sufficient Deeds in Law that the said William Joseph and the said Elizabeth should remain in peaceable possession of a Certain parcel of Land supposed by the Maps and Bounds thereof to contain three hundred and fifty Acres with all Improvements thereon being parts of two Tracts of Land called Brooke point and Brooke horses during the natural life of the said Elizabeth in satisfaction of her Dowry of all her said first husband lands and that by virtue of the said Agreement after the Death of the said William Joseph the said Elizabeth became solely seized of the said three hundred and fifty Acres of Land in right of her Dowry as aforesaid and being so seized afterwards Intermarried with a Certain Edmund Major of the County aforesaid Merchant by whom she had two Children that the said Edmund this Misfortune Occasioned by Dray of the Tobacco Trade became involved in unhappy Circumstances and this year of Anns by his Creditors private-ly went to England leaving the said Elizabeth entirely destitute of means to maintain herself and the said Edmunds two Children as aforesaid also four others she had by the said William Joseph her second husband and humbly Prayed that it might be enacted by this present General Assembly that notwithstanding her Coverture and the absence of her said husband Edmund Major she have power to lease for her life the said three hundred and fifty Acres of Land to any person who shall agree with her for the same

And be it enacted by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietor by and with the Advice and Consent of his Lordships Governor and the Upper and lower houses of Assembly and the Authority of the said Elizabeth Major wife of the said Edmund have hereby full power and Authority to lease for her life to any person Capable to take such lease the lands above mentioned either for an yearly Rent or for a Sum in Grosp. and that the person so leasing or purchasing of her by virtue of this Act have as good and Indefeasible an Estate in the same Lands as if the said Edmund Major had actually consented to and Joyued in making the same lease or sale and that the aforesaid Lessee or Purchaser on any Action brought against him or her by the said Edmund for any Rent or Sum of Money or Tobacco pretended to be Due for or by reason of such Lease or sale may plead the General Issue and give the Special Matter and this Act in Evidence and that thereupon such Court before whom such Action or Suit shall be depending shall Judge & Determine in favour of the aforesaid Lessee or Purchaser and Adjudge to him or her Cost of Suit any Law Usage Coverture of the said Elizabeth or absence of her said husband or any other Matter to the Contrary notwithstanding

Provided Always and it is hereby enacted by the Authority Advice and Consent of that the Money or other Effects arising by such lease or sale of the lands aforesaid be wholly appropriated during the absence of the said Edmund towards the support & maintenance of her the said Elizabeth and her aforesaid Children and that the same Money or other Effects be not any ways Subject to any Attachment or other Condemnation Judgment or Recovery by any Creditor of the said Edmund for any Debt already or that may be hereafter created by him and that this Act pleaded in any Court within this Province be sufficient to bar any person or persons of any such Claim any Law Usage or any other Matter to the Contrary notwithstanding. Saving to his most Sacred Majesty his heirs and Successors and to the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary his heirs and Successors and to all bodies politic and Corporate and all others not mentioned in this Act their severall & respective Rights

October the 16<sup>th</sup> 1723  
Read and Reported to by the lower house of Assembly & signed  
Wm. Fenwick Secy

October the 26<sup>th</sup> 1723  
On behalf of the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietor of this Province  
I will this be a Law  
Chas. Calvert

October the 15<sup>th</sup> 1723  
Read and Reported to by the upper house of Assembly and signed  
Samuel Shippin Secy