

Ch. 20
20

Whereas Thomas Dent of Charles County Gentleman by his humble petition to this present Generall Assembly hath set forth that he is continued a prisoner for debt in the Custody of the Sheriff of the County aforesaid Two years and upwards in Execution of severall large Sums of money due to some of his Creditors which though he believes he has sufficient Estate in Land and moveables to discharge yet he conceives it would be very unequal since he has not enough to satisfy all his debts fully to pay some and thereby deprive himself of the means of discharging any part of the rest and hath prayed Leave to bring in a Bill to discharge his body out of Prison upon Surrendering his whole Estate real and personal to be equally ~~and~~ distributed amongst his Creditors and for that the truth of the said petitioners Allegations is made appear to this generall Assembly by sufficient Testimony and for that the said petitioner and his family are fit Objects of Charity and that lying in Goals can be no Benefit to his Creditors it is humbly prayed that he may be relieved according to his Petition and that it may be Enacted and be it Enacted by the right Honourable the Lord Proprietor by and with the advice and Consent of his Lordships Governour and the upper and lower Houses of Assembly this present generall Assembly and the authority of the same that unless all or any of the Creditors of the said Thomas Dent or the attorney or Attorneys of such Creditor or Creditors or any of them within this Province within twenty Days after the end of this Session of Assembly go to the Sheriff of Charles County in whose Custody the prisoner aforesaid is detained or kept in Custody and give good Security to pay the imprisonment fees at Ten Pounds of Tobacco per Day that shall or may become due from the said prisoner after the end of the said Twenty Days and also to find the said Thomas Dent sufficient Meate drink and Cloathing during his future imprisonment in case the said Thomas Dent shall deliver up and Surrender or cause to be delivered up and Surrendered to the Sheriff of the County in whose Custody he is in the presence of two Justices of the Peace of the same County whom the said Sheriff is hereby required to Summon at the Request of the said Thomas Dent at the dwelling plantation or place of abode of the said Thomas Dent at some convenient time between the third day of November next and the tenth day of December next all his real and personal Estate either in possession Reversion Remainder or in trust or in or unto which he has any claim or interest whatsoever and do likewise between the days aforesaid convey Assign transfer and make over unto the Sheriff of the County aforesaid for the use of his said Creditors all such his Estate interest or Claims as aforesaid after such manner as by the said Sheriff and the major part of the said Creditors or of such of them as shall think fit to direct therein or their Council Learned in the Law shall reasonably devise or require at the cost and charges of such persons as shall claim the benefit thereof so as the said Thomas Dent be not Burthened with any Warranty thereby other then from himself and his heirs and those that Claim by him or under him and that the

(said)