

An Act to prevent several Irregularities  
complained of by the People called Quakers -

Whereas it is humbly represented to this present  
General Assembly by the People called Quakers that  
undry persons set up Booths and sell drink and other  
things near their yearly meeting houses within this  
Province whereby those places which were by them  
intended and used as places of solemn worship are converted  
into places of Traffick and debauchery & Immorality to  
their very great disturbance in the Exercise of their Religion  
and the worship of God And forasmuch as the  
several methods heretofore used for the suppression of  
such Irregularities have proved altogether ineffectual  
It is humbly prayed that it may be enacted And be it  
Enacted by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietors  
by and with the Advice and Consent of his Lordships  
Governour and the Upper and Lower houses of Assembly  
and the Authority of the same That whosoever from and after  
the publication hereof shall presume either to set up a  
Booth or sell or dispose of any Liquor or other matter or thing  
whosoever either by Land or water within One Mile of the  
yearly meeting house of the said People called Quakers in  
Talbot County or within Two Miles of their yearly meeting  
house near West River in Annaproose County during the  
time of such yearly meetings shall for every such offence  
forfeit and pay unto the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietors  
his heirs and Successors the Sum of Ten pounds Current money  
of Maryland one half thereof to be applied to the use of the  
Publick Schools of the County where such offence shall be  
committed the other half to him or them that shall sue for  
the same to be recovered by action of Debt Bill Plaintiff or  
Information wherein no Escoyn Protection or Trespasse of Law to  
be allowed And be it further enacted by the  
Authority Advice and Consent aforesaid that upon Complaint  
made to any Justice of the Peace for the County where such  
offence shall be committed the said Justice is hereby required  
immediately to issue his warrant to cause the said offender to  
be brought before him and upon proof made to him of the  
same by the Oath or affirmation of a Quaker or of one or more  
witnesses or Confession of the party to commit the said offender  
to prison until he shall remove with Booth Liquor or other  
things