

secution, the Expence thereof must have been born by the Publick, or the Inhabitants of the County or Counties where the Facts have been committed : For Remedy of which Evils,

*Be it Enacted, by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the Advice and Consent of his Lordship's Governour, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the Authority of the same,* That from and after the End of this present Session of Assembly, it shall and may be lawful, to and for the severall and respective Officers within this Province, to whom any Fees shall arise due on any Prosecution of the Lord Proprietary, against any Servants that shall be imported into this Province, at any Time after the End of this Session, to charge the same to, and recover the same from the Masters or Owners of such Servants, in the same Manner as if they arose due from, and were the proper Debts of the Masters or Owners themselves, as by other Laws are provided: And that it shall not be lawful for any Officer or other Person, to charge the Publick, or any County, for any Fees that shall arise due on the Prosecution of any such Servants as aforesaid ; any Law, Statute, Usage or Custom to the contrary, in any wise, notwithstanding.

*And be it further Enacted, by the Authority, Advice and Consent aforesaid,* That it shall and may be lawful to and for the Owners of such Servants ( unless the Offence whereof he, she, or they shall be convicted be Capital, and that the Offender or Offenders are actually executed for the same, ) at or before the Time of the Expiration of such Servants Servitude, to carry such Servant to the County-court held for their County, and on their making it fully appear to the Justices of such Court, how much Tobacco hath been paid by them for such Servant, on Account of such Prosecutions, it shall and may be lawful for the Justices of such Court, and they are hereby required, to adjudge what Time ( not exceeding Three Years, ) they shall think reasonable, to serve the Owner in Recompence to such Fees paid as aforesaid ; unless such Servant can make Payment thereof in some other Manner.

*And be it Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid,* That all Masters and Owners of Women Servants, having Bastard Children, shall be obliged to maintain such Bastard Children, at his and their own proper Cost and Charge, during the Continuance of such Servant Woman in his or their Service.

*Provided,* That it shall and may be lawful for the Justices of the County-court, where such Bastard Child or Children shall be born, to adjudge the Mother or Mothers of such Bastard Child or Children, where the Father is unknown, or incapable to make any Satisfaction, to make her or their Master or Owners full Satisfaction and Recompence by Servitude or otherwise, for maintaining and supporting such Bastard Child or Children ; any Law, Usage or Custom to the contrary, notwithstanding.

*Provided always,* That where the Begetter or Begetters of such Bastard Child or Children, is or are Resident or Residents within this Province, of Ability to maintain such Child or Children, and lawfully convict of being the Begetter or Begetters of such Child or Children, it shall and may be lawful in all such Cases, for the severall Justices of the Peace to oblige such Father or Begetter, to support and maintain such Bastard

Child

*Bastard*

*Child*