

An ACT for the Relief of John Powel, John Nowel, Samuel Stevens, Mary Gordon and Thomas Price, Languishing Prisoners in Anne-Arundel County. Thomas Hill and James Ward, Languishing Prisoners in Talbot County. Richard Edwards and Nathaniel Wright, Languishing Prisoners in Queen-Anne's County. Christopher Bonfield and Clarina Gilly, Languishing Prisoners in Calvert County. Kenneth Mackensy, a Languishing Prisoner in Charles County. Peter Bromfield, a Languishing Prisoner in Prince George's County. And Abel Van Burkelo, a Languishing Prisoner in Cecil County;

WHEREAS the said *John Powel, John Nowel, Samuel Stevens, Mary Gordon, Thomas Price, Thomas Hill, James Ward, Richard Edwards, Nathaniel Wright, Christopher Bonfield, Clarina Gilly, Kenneth Mackensy, Peter Bromfield, and Abel Van Burkelo*, (by their humble Petition to this present General Assembly) have severally set forth, That they have continued Prisoners for Debt, in the Custody of the Sheriffs of the several Counties aforesaid, *viz.* The said *John Powel, John Nowel, Samuel Stevens, Mary Gordon, and Thomas Price*, under the Custody of the Sheriff of *Anne-Arundel County*; *Thomas Hill and James Ward*, under the Custody of the Sheriff of *Talbot County*; *Richard Edwards and Nathaniel Wright*, under the Custody of the Sheriff of *Queen Anne's County*; *Christopher Bonfield, and Clarina Gilly*, under the Custody of the Sheriff of *Calvert County*; *Kenneth Mackensy*, under the Custody of the Sheriff of *Charles County*; *Peter Bromfield*, under the Custody of the Sheriff of *Prince George's County*; and *Abel Van Burkelo*, under the Custody of the Sheriff of *Cecil County*; for a considerable Time past, and still continue in the like deplorable Circumstances, not being able to redeem their Bodies, with all their Estate or Interest they have in the World; which they wouldy readily surrender up and part with, to their several and respective Creditors, if they would accept of the same, and grant the said Petitioners their Liberty; which seems so unlikely for them to obtain, that (unless relieved by a particular Act to be past in their Favour, which by their said Petitions they have humbly prayed) they must inevitably continue Prisoners for Life; and thereby their Families utterly ruined. And for that the Truth of the said Petitioners Allegations is made appear to this General Assembly, by sufficient Testimony; and that the said Petitioners, and their Families, are fit Objects of Charity, and that their lying in Goal can be no Benefit to their Creditors; It is humbly prayed, that the said Petitioners may be relieved according to their Prayer, and that it may be Enacted,

And 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 unless all or any of the Creditors of the said *John Powel, John Nowel, Samuel Stevens, Mary Gordon, Thomas Price, Thomas Hill, James Ward, Richard Edwards, Nathaniel Wright, Christopher Bonfield, Clarina Gilly, Kenneth Mackensy, Peter Bromfield, and Abel Van Burkelo*, or the Creditor or Creditors of any or either of them, or the Attorney or Attorneys, of such Creditor, or Creditors aforesaid, within this Province; shall, within Twenty Days after the End of this Sessions of Assembly, go to the Sheriffs of the aforesaid Counties of *Anne-Arundel, Talbot, Queen Anne's, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, and Cecil*; and give good Security to pay the Imprisonment Fees of Ten Pounds of Tobacco per Day, that shall or may become due from the said *John Powel, John Nowel, Samuel Stevens, Mary Gordon, Thomas Price, Thomas Hill, James Ward, Richard Edwards, Nathaniel Wright, Christopher Bonfield, Clarina Gilly, Kenneth Mackensy, Peter Bromfield, and Abel Van Burkelo*, after the End of the said Twenty Days; And also to find the said *John Powel, John Nowel, Samuel Stevens, Mary Gordon, Thomas Price, Thomas Hill, James Ward, Richard Edwards, Nathaniel Wright, Christopher Bonfield, Clarina Gilly, Kenneth Mackensy, Peter Bromfield, and Abel Van Burkelo*, or any or either of them, sufficient Meat, Drink, and Cloathing, during their future Imprisonment; In case they the said *John Powel, John Nowel, Samuel Stevens, Mary Gordon, Thomas Price, Thomas Hill, James Ward, Richard Edwards, Nathaniel Wright, Christopher Bonfield, Clarina Gilly, Kenneth Mackensy, Peter Bromfield, and Abel Van Burkelo*, shall deliver up and surrender, or cause to be delivered up and surrendered to the Sheriffs of *Anne-Arundel, Talbot, Queen Anne's, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, and Cecil* Counties aforesaid, in the Presence of Two Justices of the Peace in each of the said Counties, whom the said Sheriffs are hereby required to summon, on the Request of the said *John Powel, John Nowel, Samuel Stevens, Mary Gordon, Thomas Price, Thomas Hill, James Ward, Richard Edwards, Nathaniel Wright, Christopher Bonfield, Clarina Gilly, Kenneth Mackensy, Peter Bromfield, and Abel Van Burkelo*, or any of them, at the Dwelling Plantation, or Plantations, or Place or Places, where, before the Imprisonment of the said several Persons, was the Place or Places of Residence of the said *John Powel, John Nowel, Samuel Stevens, Mary Gordon, Thomas Price, Thomas Hill, James Ward, Richard Edwards, Nathaniel Wright, Christopher Bonfield, Clarina Gilly, Kenneth Mackensy, Peter Bromfield, and Abel Van Burkelo*, at some convenient Time, after the Receipt of this Act, not exceeding Ten Days, all their real and personal Estate, either in Possession, Reversion or Remainder, or in Trust, or in or unto which they have, or any or either of them hath any Claim or Interest whatsoever; and do likewise, by the Day before mentioned, convey, assign, transfer and make over unto the said Sheriffs of *Anne-Arundel, Talbot, Queen Anne's, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, and Cecil* Counties, for the Use of their said Creditors, all such their Estate, Interest or Claim 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 Costs and Charges of such Persons, as shall claim the Benefit thereof; so as the said *John Powel, John Nowel, Samuel Stevens, Mary Gordon, Thomas Price, Thomas Hill, James Ward, Richard Edwards, Nathaniel Wright, Christopher Bonfield, Clarina Gilly, Kenneth Mackensy, Peter Bromfield, and Abel Van Burkelo*, be not burthened with any Warranties thereby, other than from themselves; or those that claim by, from or under them. And that the said *John Powel, John Nowel, Samuel Stevens, Mary Gordon, Thomas Price, Thomas Hill, James Ward, Richard Edwards, Nathaniel Wright, Christopher Bonfield, Clarina Gilly, Kenneth Mackensy, Peter Bromfield, and Abel Van Burkelo*,