

An ACT for Relief of Richard Smith, William Nimmo, George Clagett, William Burston, James Mason, John Brooke, and Benjamin Hilliard, languishing Prisoners in Prince George's County Goal; William Robertson, Richard Roper, John Norwood, and Richard Sympson, languishing Prisoners in Anne-Arundel County Goal; Thomas Taylor, a languishing Prisoner in Baltemore County Goal; Edward Hyatt, and Robert Lynch, languishing Prisoners in Kent County Goal; Richard Barrow, Thomas Brown, John Clark, William Austin, and Robert Cardiff, languishing Prisoners in Talbot County Goal; Thomas Vernall, a languishing Prisoner in St. Mary's County Goal; and Daniel Hall, a languishing Prisoner in Cecil County Goal.

WHEREAS the said Richard Smith, William Nimmo, George Clagett, William Burston, James Mason, John Brooks and Benjamin Hilliard, William Robertson, Richard Roper, John Norwood, Richard Sympson, Thomas Taylor, Edward Hyatt, Robert Lynch, Richard Barrow, Thomas Brown, John Clark, William Austin, Robert Cardiff, Thomas Vernall, and Daniel Hall, by their humble Petition to this present General Assembly, have severally set forth, That they have continued Prisoners for Debt, in the Custodies of the Sheriffs of the several Counties aforesaid, *viz.* the said Richard Smith, William Nimmo, George Clagett, William Burston, James Mason, John Brooks, and Benjamin Hilliard, under the Custody of the Sheriff of *Prince George's County*; William Robertson, Richard Roper, John Norwood, and Richard Sympson, under the Custody of the Sheriff of *Anne-Arundel County*; Thomas Taylor, under the Custody of the Sheriff of *Baltemore County*; Edward Hyatt and Robert Lynch, under the Custody of the Sheriff of *Kent County*; Richard Barrow, Thomas Brown, John Clark, William Austin, and Robert Cardiff, under the Custody of the Sheriff of *Talbot County*; Thomas Vernall, under the Custody of the Sheriff of *St. Mary's County*; and Daniel Hall, under the Custody of the Sheriff of *Cecil County*; and still continue in the like deplorable Circumstances, not being able to redeem their Bodies, 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 passed 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 Creditor or Creditors of the said Richard Smith, William Nimmo, George Clagett, William Burston, James Mason, John Brooks, Benjamin Hilliard, William Robertson, Richard Roper, John Norwood, Richard Sympson, Thomas Taylor, Edward Hyatt, Robert Lynch, Richard Barrow, Thomas Brown, John Clark, William Austin, Robert Cardiff, Thomas Vernall, and Daniel Hall, 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 Session of Assembly, go to the Sheriffs of the aforesaid Counties of *Prince George's, Anne-Arundel, Baltemore, Kent, Talbot, St. Mary'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 Richard Smith, William Nimmo, George Clagett, William Burston, James Mason, John Brooks, Benjamin Hilliard, William Robertson, Richard Roper, John Norwood, Richard Sympson, Thomas Taylor, Edward Hyatt, Robert Lynch, Richard Barrow, Thomas Brown, John Clark, William Austin, Robert Cardiff, Thomas Vernall, and Daniel Hall, after the End of the said Twenty Days; and also find the said Richard Smith, William Nimmo, George Clagett, William Burston, James Mason, John Brooks, Benjamin Hilliard, William Robertson, Richard Roper, John Norwood, Richard Sympson, Thomas Taylor, Edward Hyatt, Robert Lynch, Richard Barrow, Thomas Brown, John Clark, William Austin, Robert Cardiff, Thomas Vernall, and Daniel Hall, or any or either of them, sufficient Meat, Drink, and Cloathing, during their future Imprisonment, in case they the said Richard Smith, William Nimmo, George Clagett, William Burston, James Mason, John Brooks, Benjamin Hilliard, William Robertson, Richard Roper, John Norwood, Richard Sympson, Thomas Taylor, Edward Hyatt, Robert Lynch, Richard Barrow, Thomas Brown, John Clark, William Austin, Robert Cardiff, Thomas Vernall, and Daniel Hall, shall deliver up and surrender, or cause to be delivered up or surrendered to the Sheriffs of the 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 Richard Smith, William Nimmo, George Clagett, William Burston, James Mason, John Brooks, Benjamin Hilliard, William Robertson, Richard Roper, John Norwood, Richard Sympson, Thomas Taylor, Edward Hyatt, Robert Lynch, Richard Barrow, Thomas Brown, John Clark, William Austin, Robert Cardiff, Thomas Vernall, and Daniel Hall, or any one 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 were the Places, of Residence of the said Richard Smith, William Nimmo, George Clagett, William Burston, James Mason, John Brooks, Benjamin Hilliard,