

An Act to prevent the ill Practices of Sheriffs, in the Collecting and Payment of the Public and County Levies.

**W**HEREAS, by an Act Entituled, *An Act for emitting and making Current Ninety Thousand Pounds, Current Money of Maryland, in Bills of Credit*, it is amongst other Things Enacted, That the said Bills of Credit should pass in Payment, Satisfaction, and Discharge of all Contracts, after Publication thereof, within this Province, for Current Money; and that all or any of the Inhabitants of this Province might, and by the same Act were enabled to discharge all Levies, (the Forty *per* Poll, and all Tobacco directed by any Act of Assembly of this Province to be levied, and applied to the building and repairing of any Church or Churches, therein excepted) in the said Bills of Credit, or Gold or Silver; and that all Bounties, Rewards, and Allowances, given and allowed by any Act of Assembly of this Province, and also all Fines, Forfeitures and Penalties, settled and established in Tobacco by any Law of this Province, should and might be paid, satisfied, and discharged in the said Bills of Credit, or Gold and Silver, rating Tobacco at Ten Shillings *per* Hundred, and in Proportion for a lesser Quantity; with *Provido*, that no Person should be obliged to pay the said Bills of Credit, Gold or Silver, in lieu of Tobacco; but that every such Person should be at Liberty to pay Tobacco for the said Levies and Penalties, as if the said Act had never been made; but that every Person who should not tender or pay such Bills of Credit, or Gold or Silver, by the Tenth Day of *April* yearly, during the Continuance of that Act, should be obliged to pay all Levies in Tobacco, as if that Act had never been made.

And Whereas, several of the People of this Province, liable to pay the Public and County Levies, have also Allowances made to them in the Public or County Levies, by Laws now in Being, for certain Services to the Country, and most justly conclude that the several Sheriffs should and ought to discount with them for so much Tobacco as they are allowed in their Hands, or so much as will discharge that Part of their Levy as is by the said Act to be paid in Money, at the Rate of Ten Shillings *per* Hundred, be it before or after the Tenth Day of *April* yearly; yet so it is, that the said Sheriffs, or some of them, have insisted to pay, and have paid to the said Inhabitants, their whole Allowances aforesaid in Money, at the Rate of Ten Shillings *per* Hundred, and at the same Time demanded from, and obliged the People to pay either the whole of the Tobacco they stand charged with for Public or County Levies, or such high and exorbitant Prices for such Tobacco, as they were pleased to put thereon: For the Remedy of which Evil,

*Be it Enacted by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the Advice and Consent of his Lordship's Governor, 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, when and as often as any of the Inhabitants aforesaid shall have any Allowance