

Penalty.

Hour each Servant or Slave shall be by him, her or them so entertained or permitted or suffered to be about his, her or their House or Plantation as aforesaid, to be recovered in a summary Way, before a single Magistrate, with Costs, if the Penalty does not exceed Six hundred Pounds of Tobacco; and if it does exceed Six hundred Pounds of Tobacco, then to be recovered by Action of Debt, Bill of Indictment, Plaint or Information, in the County Court where the Offence shall be committed, wherein no Essoin, Protection, Wager of Law, or above one Imparlance, shall be allowed; the one half whereof shall be applyed to the Use of the public School of the County wherein such Forfeiture shall happen, and the other half to the Party grieved, provided he or she shall prosecute for the same within three Months next after the Offence committed, otherwise to the Informer or him or her who shall sue for the same; Provided such Suit be commenced within twelve Months after such Offence committed.

If unable to pay the Fine, then to be whipt.

And be it further Enacted, That if it shall appear to any Magistrate, before whom any Conviction for Breach of this Act shall be had, that the Offender is unable to pay or give good Security for the Penalty aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful for such Magistrate to punish such Offender by Whipping on the bare back with such Number of Stripes, not exceeding thirty-nine for any one Offence, as to him shall seem meet, and to require Security for the good Behaviour of such Offender for and during the Term of six Months then next following.

In case one Servant or Slave entertains another, then to be punished by Whipping.

And be it further Enacted, That if any Servant or Slave shall wittingly or willingly harbour or entertain any other Servant or Servants, Slave or Slaves, unlawfully absent from his, her or their Master, Owner or Overseer for and during the Space of one Hour or longer, it shall and may be lawful for any Magistrate, and he is hereby required, upon Complaint to him made, immediately to issue his Warrant against such Servant or Slave so harbouring or entertaining as aforesaid, and upon satisfactory Proof of such harbouring or entertaining, to punish the Offender or Offenders by Whipping with such Number of Stripes, on the bare Back, as to him shall seem proper, not exceeding thirty-nine for any one Offence.

Sheriffs to read this Act every Court.

And be it further Enacted, That the several Sheriffs of this Province shall read this Act on the Wednesday in each respective County Court, in full Court, having first given publick Notice of such Reading by Proclamation, at the several Ordinaries or Houses of Entertainment near to the Court House, on pain of forfeiting Five hundred Pounds of Tobacco for every Omission or Neglect, to be recovered and applyed as aforesaid.

Continuance.

This Act to continue for three Years, and to the End of the next Session of Assembly which shall happen after the Expiration of three Years.

An additional and explanatory Act to the Act entituled, *An Act empowering the Commissioners of the County Courts to levy and raise Tobacco to defray the necessary Charges of their Counties and Parishes.*

Preamble.

WHEREAS by an Act of Assembly of this Province, Entituled, *An Act empowering the Commissioners of the County Courts to levy and raise Tobacco to defray the necessary Charges of their Counties and Parishes,* made at a Session of Assembly begun and held at the Town and Port of Annapolis, the Fifth Day