

An Act to empower the Justices of *Queen Anne's* County Court to sell the Materials of the old Prison of that County, and the Produce thereof to apply as therein directed.

Money arising from the Sale of the old Prison, to be applied towards defraying the Expence of the County.

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 it shall and may be lawful to and for the Justices of *Queen Anne's* County Court, for the Time being, and they are hereby directed and required after the End of this present Session of Assembly, as soon as conveniently may be, to bargain, sell, and dispose of, for the greatest Price in current Money that can be got for the same, the Materials, of what Nature or Kind soever, of the House heretofore erected or used for the Prison or Goal of the said County, and now commonly called or known by the Name of the *Old Prison*; and the Money arising by such Sale, the Justices aforesaid are hereby directed and required to use and apply towards the defraying the public Charge of the said County; any Law, Usage or Custom to the contrary thereof, in any wise notwithstanding.

An Act for the Relief of Persons accused and acquitted, and of Witnesses against Persons accused.

Preamble.

WH E R E A S many People within this Province have been accused and prosecuted for Offences and Crimes whereof they have been innocent, and thereof have been acquitted; but by Means of the great Expence and Charges attending such Prosecutions, have been either confined for such Expence and Charges, or sold for Servants. And whereas also many indigent Persons, or Strangers, have been necessarily, for Want of Sureties to appear as Witnesses, committed to Prison; by Means whereof, such Persons have often been sold as Servants for the Prison Fees arising upon such Commitment, or otherwise detained in Prison for such Fees, to their great Damage, and Loss to the Public in the Labour of such Person or Persons.

Prosecution and Imprisonment Fees to be paid by the County or the Public, where the Person accused is acquitted.

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 where any Person, from and after the End of this Session of Assembly, shall be arrested, accused, or prosecuted, in any Court within this Province, for any Offence or Crime whatsoever, and be duly and legally acquitted by Verdict of a Jury, *Ignoramus* returned, or otherwise, that then and in such Case, such Person shall not be chargeable with, or pay any Fees upon such Prosecution, or by Reason thereof; but that in such Case, the County where the Prosecution is carried on shall be chargeable with, and pay such Fees; And in all other Cases, not within the Cognizance of the County Courts, but tried or otherwise determined in a superior Court, the Public shall be chargeable with, and pay such Fee or Fees; any Law, Usage, or Custom, to the contrary notwithstanding.

Fees of Witnesses imprisoned for want of Sureties, to be discharged in like Manner.

And be it likewise Enacted, That where any Person, Witness against any Person or Persons accused of any Crime or Crimes within this Province, cannot find Surety for his or her Appearance, to testify as a Witness against any Person so arrested, accused, or prosecuted as aforesaid, and for Want of such Surety shall be committed to Prison; that then and in such Case, the County where the Prosecution shall be carried on, shall be chargeable with and pay such Witness's Imprisonment Fees: And in case the Prosecution shall be in a superior Court, then and in such Case, the Public shall be chargeable