

One Justice to hear and try all Causes of 600 lbs. of Tobacco, or 50 Shillings Currency.

lawful for any One Justice of the Peace of each respective County, wherein the Debtor doth reside, to try, hear and determine, the Matter of Controversy between the Creditor and Debtor, and upon full Hearing of the Allegations and Evidences of both Parties, shall give Judgment according to the Equity and Right of the Matter, and if need be charge the Constable with the Body of the Debtor, in Execution, who is hereby obliged and impowered to carry the Person so committed to the Sheriff of the County, together with a Certificate, or Mittimus from such Justice, wherein shall be certified the Debt and Cost whereof such Person shall be convict, by him to be lately kept until Satisfaction or other End thereof, or otherwise, that such Justice shall award Execution on such his Judgment, (directed to the Sheriff of the County,) by Warrant or Mittimus, in the Nature of a *Capias ad Satisfaciendum*, *Fieri facias* or otherwise, and that in Case upon the Return of any Warrant, or any Complaint issued by any such Justice, it shall appear that the Person against whom the same shall Issue, is not to be found, it shall and may be lawful for the Creditor to proceed, in the several and respective County Courts, for obtaining an Attachment, according to the Directions of the Act for suing out Attachments in this Province, and limiting the Extent of them against the Goods, Chattels, and Credits of such Persons, for any Sum exceeding One Hundred Pounds of Tobacco, or Ten Shillings in Current Money; any Act or Acts to the contrary notwithstanding.

One Act, made in 1715, repealed.

III. *AND be it likewise Enacted*, That an Act of Assembly, made at a Session of Assembly, held at the City of *Annapolis*, on the Twenty Sixth Day of *April*, *Anno Domini* Seventeen Hundred and Fifteen, entitled, *An Act for the speedy Recovery of small Debts out of Court, before a single Justice of the Peace*, be, and is hereby abrogated, repealed and made void.

County Courts not to try Causes under 600 lbs. of Tobacco or 50 Shillings;

IV. *AND be it likewise Enacted*, That the Justices of the several County Courts within this Province shall not hold Plea of any Debt, or Damage, which shall not exceed Six Hundred Pounds of Tobacco, or Fifty Shillings in Current Money; any Law, Usage, or Custom, to the contrary notwithstanding.

Unless the Actions were commenced before the making this Act.

V. *PROVIDED nevertheless*, That nothing in the said Act shall hinder the Justices aforesaid from holding Plea, of any Debt or Damage, where the Suits are or shall be commenced before the End of this Session of Assembly, for any Sum above Four Hundred Pounds of Tobacco, or Thirty Three Shillings and Four Pence Current Money, and under Six Hundred Pounds of Tobacco, and Fifty Shillings Current Money; any Thing in the abovesaid Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

Continuance.

VI. *THIS Act* to continue for Three Years, and unto the End of the next Session of Assembly, which shall happen after the Expiration of the said Three Years.

An Act to impower the several Courts within this Province, to order Commissions for the Examination of Witnesses residing beyond Sea, and for the more easy Foreclosure of Mortgages.

Preamble.

I. **W**HEREAS, it has been found very inconvenient to many Suitors, in the several and respective Courts within this Province, whose Witnesses have resided beyond Sea, that the said Courts have not any Power or Authority to order Commissions for the Examination of such Witnesses, whereby such Suitors have been deprived of the Benefit of their Testimony, or been put to an heavy Expence and great Delay,