

1778.

L A W S of the S T A T E of

C H A P.
III, IV, V, VI.
Continuance.

XIV. This act to continue and be in force until the tenth day of May next.

C H A P. IV.

An ACT for the relief of Joshua Chilcut of Caroline county. (*A private act.*)

C H A P. V.

An ACT to enable Cassandra Ducker, widow, and executrix of John Ducker, late of Anne-Arundel county, deceased, to sell and dispose of certain lands and mills therein mentioned. (*A private act.*)

C H A P. VI.

An ACT for preventing excessive and deceitful gaming, and for other purposes therein mentioned.

Preamble.

WHEREAS true religion and good morals are the only solid foundation of public liberty and happiness, and it is thought reasonable by this general assembly, for the encouragement thereof, to take the most effectual measures for the suppressing of theatrical entertainments, horse-racing, gaming, and such other diversions as are productive of idleness, dissipation, and a general depravity of principles and manners:

Promises, &c.
made for money,
&c. won at cards, &c.
to be void, &c.

II. Be it therefore enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That all promises, agreements, notes, bills, bonds, judgments, mortgages, or other securities or conveyances whatsoever, made, given, granted, drawn, or entered into, or executed, by any person or persons whatsoever, where the whole, or any part of the consideration of such promise, agreement, conveyances, or securities, shall be for money, or other valuable thing whatsoever, won, laid or betted, at cards, dice, tables, tennis, bowls, or any other game or games whatsoever, or at any horse-race, cock-fighting, or any other sport or pastime, or on any wager whatsoever, or for the re-imbursing or repaying any money, knowingly lent or advanced for such uses, to any person or persons whatsoever, or lent or advanced at the time and place of such play, horse-racing, cock-fighting, or other sport or pastime, to any person or persons so gaming, betting, or wagering, or that shall at such time and place so play, bet, or wager, shall be utterly void, frustrate, and of none effect, to all intents and purposes whatsoever, any law, custom, or usage, to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding. And that where such mortgages, securities, or other conveyances, shall be of lands, tenements, or hereditaments, or shall be such as encumber or affect the same, such mortgages, securities, or other conveyances, shall enure and be to and for the sole use and benefit of, and shall devolve upon, such person and persons as should or might be entitled to such lands, tenements, or hereditaments, in case the said grantor or grantors thereof, or the person or persons so encumbering the same, had been naturally dead, and as if such mortgages, securities, or other conveyances, had been made to such person or persons so to be entitled after the decease of the person or persons so encumbering the same; and all grants or conveyances made, or to be made, for the preventing

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