

Prison, that they may there be kept in Sure and safe Custody, that so  
Criminals may receive Condign Punishment and Creditors may have their  
Debts surely paid or the Bodies of their Debtors duely restrained according  
to the Law of England

Signed &c

Ordered that the Honourable Secretary and Col Jesse Whartonbe,  
appointed to Join with the Members of the Lower house who are Ordered  
to View the State house and Prison

Lower house 8th June 1676

This house do Concur with the Upper house in the Vote hereabove  
Touching Goalers and keepers of Prisons

Came to this house a Petition & shewed to his Lordship by the Lower  
house which is as followeth Viz

To the Right Honourable Charles Lord Baltimore Absolute Lord  
an Proprietary of this Province of Maryland

The Humble Petition of the Citizens and Deputies of the Low house of  
Assembly

Sheweth to your Lordship

That We your Lordships humble servants well knowing that it is  
your Lordships Prerogative to call what Number of Delegates or Deputies to a  
General Assembly out of the Respective Counties as your Lordship shall think fit  
to Summons by your Will. But since there were four Deputies or Delegates elected  
by your Lordships Command in every County. But two of which were called by your  
Lordships Will to sit at this Assembly by which Means some of the Inhabitants  
of this your Lordships Province seem Dissatisfied and that they have not their  
free Vote, We your Lordships faithfull and Humble servants humbly pray for the  
future to prevent all Discontents touching the same that your Lordship would  
Order a Certain Number to be elected in every County, and that every Person so  
elected may be called to serve as a Member of this house by your Lordships Will  
and in case of the Death or Removal to any Office of any Member for the future  
New Writts may be issued for the Inhabitants of such Counties that the Deceased or  
Removed Members were Delegates for to elect New ones in their Stead which  
said Persons newly elected may likewise be sent for by your Lordship Will  
So that for the future the Members of this house may be the free Choice of the  
People.

Signed &c

Upon Perusal of this Petition We have Considered that to grant this  
Petition is to make void the Declaration of our Deceased Father Relating to  
the Settlement of Assemblies, But yet have Resolved to grant it, But So  
Declare that we shall for the future Grant that every Member of Assembly here  
after to be elected, shall at his Entrance and before the Election of the Speaker  
take the Oath of Fidelity to us our heirs and Successors, and that the  
Delegates now already elected to this Assembly and Omitted to be called to  
this Session shall at their Entrance into the house of Assembly take the  
like Oath

Signed by his Lordship