

*An Act for raising Threepence Sterling per Hogshead, on all Tobacco to be Exported, for purchasing Arms and Ammunition for the Defence of this Province.*

WHEREAS, His Majesty, our most gracious Sovereign, is now engaged in a War with *Spain*; and lest the Magazine of Arms and Ammunition now in the Province, and the Moneys heretofore raised by any former Acts should prove insufficient for that present Purpose, We, his Majesty's faithful Subjects, the Delegates of the Freemen of *Maryland*, in General Assembly convened, to testify our Zeal for His Majesty's Person and Government, and for putting our selves in the best and speediest Posture of Defence we are able; humbly pray that it may be Enacted: *And be it Enacted* by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the Consent of His Lordship's Governor, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the Authority of the same, That there shall be Levied, Collected, and Raised, a Duty or Impost of Three Pence Sterling Money on every Hogshead of Tobacco, which now is, or hereafter shall be, laden on board any Ship or Vessel to be Exported out of this Province, and not cleared at some Naval-Office before the End of this present Session of Assembly, to be Collected and Received by the respective Naval Officers, in the same Manner as other Duties on all Tobacco, now due and payable, are Collected and Raised; which said Duty shall from Time to Time, by the Naval Officers aforesaid, be Paid to the Honourable Col. *Edward Sprigg*, the Speaker of the Lower House of Assembly, or to the Honourable Speaker of the Lower House of Assembly for the Time being.

*And be it further Enacted* by the Authority, Advice, and Consent aforesaid, That the same Col. *Edward Sprigg*, the present Speaker of the Lower House of Assembly, or the Speaker of the Lower House of Assembly for the Time being, shall, with the Money, which he shall so receive by Virtue of this Act, lend for and purchase, for the Use and Defence of this Province, such Arms, Ammunition, and other warlike Stores, as His Excellency His Lordship's present Governor, or His Lordship's Governor or Commander in chief for the Time being, shall direct and appoint.

*And be it further Enacted* by the Authority aforesaid, That the several Naval Officers aforesaid shall, from Time to Time, make and render to both Houses of Assembly of this Province, sufficient and clear Accounts of all Moneys which they shall receive by Virtue of this Act; and that the same Col. *Edward Sprigg*, the present Speaker of the Lower House of