

On Reading the second Time, the Petition of the Inhabitants of *Baltimore-Town*, in *Baltimore* County, praying an Act may pass the Legislative Body of this Province, to make valid a Lease, obtained by the said Petitioners, from a certain *Thomas Harrison*, and for the Regulation of a Market in the said Town: *Ordered*, That *Mr. J. Hall*, *Mr. Lee*, *Mr. Cockey Deye*, *Samuel Chase*, and *J. Hollyday*, Esqrs. do examine and enquire into the Allegations and Facts contained in the said Petition, and Report the same to the House.

On Motion of *Mr. Selby*, Leave is given to bring in a Bill for the Relief of insolvent Debtors: *Ordered*, That *Mr. Selby*, *J. Hollyday*, *S. Wilson*, *E. Key*, and *Thomas Ringgold*, Esqrs. do prepare and bring in a Bill accordingly.

Mr. Hanson brings in, and delivers to *Mr. Speaker*, a Bill for the Benefit of the Poor, and the Encouragement of Industry; which was Read the first Time, and *Ordered* to lie on the Table.

Daniel Dulany, Esq; from the Upper House, delivers to *Mr. Speaker*, the Bill entitled, *An Act for the Relief of several languishing Prisoners in the Goals therein mentioned*; indorsed, "By the Upper House of Assembly, November 14, 1765. Read the second Time, and will pass, with the Amendments annexed. Signed by Order, U. SCOTT, Cl. Up. Ho."

And the following Message, viz.

By the UPPER HOUSE of ASSEMBLY, November 14, 1765.

GENTLEMEN,

UPON your agreeing to the Amendments proposed by us, we will give our Assent to the Bill, entitled, *An Act for the Relief of certain languishing Prisoners in the several Goals therein mentioned*. Since we received that Bill, several Petitions of Prisoners have been laid before us, and as they seem to us to be equally Objects proper to be relieved, we send the Petitions to you, that their Names, if you think proper, may be inserted in the Bill.

Signed by Order,

U. SCOTT, Cl. Up. Ho.

And the following Amendments, viz.

AFTER the Word *notwithstanding*, in the last Line of the second Page, insert the following Proviso.
 "Provided also, That the respective Sheriffs of the Counties aforesaid, shall be first paid and satisfied their Imprisonment Fees, before any Creditor or Creditors shall have or receive any Share or Part of the Estates of the said Prisoners respectively, or of the Produce thereof.
 "After the Word *Sheriffs*, in the 5th Line of the last Page, leave out the Residue of that enacting Clause, and insert as follows: In Manner following paid and satisfied (that is to say) after Satisfaction of the aforesaid Imprisonment Fees, that the Estate and Interest of the aforesaid Prisoners respectively, upon which their Judgment Creditors, or any claiming, or that shall claim under them, by Assignment or otherwise, have or shall have any Lien or the Produce thereof, shall be in the first Place, after Satisfaction of the Sheriffs as aforesaid, applied to the Discharge of the said Creditors, according to the Order and Priority of their Judgments, and the Lien arising therefrom; and that the Residue of the Estate and Interest of the said Prisoners respectively, or the Produce thereof, shall be distributed among all their Creditors, that shall apply therefor within Thirty Days after the aforesaid Sale, in equal Portion to their Demands.
 "And be it further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That if any of the Persons intended by this Act to be relieved, are and shall be of sufficient Ability of Body to Labour, such Person or Persons, not having a Wife or Family, shall be, and are hereby obliged to serve, for a Time, not exceeding Five Years, to any Person or Persons, who are or shall be inclined to purchase the Time or Servitude of such Debtor, or Debtors; and that the respective Sheriffs, in whose Custody the aforesaid Persons, or any of them, are, be and are hereby authorized and obliged, at the first County Court to be held for their respective Counties, next after the End of this Session, and during the Time of Court sitting, by Order of such Court, to publish the Sale of such Debtor, and the Time of his Servitude, and the same may, and are hereby obliged to sell and dispose of, to the highest Bidder, and the Money arising from such Sale, shall be as Effects of such Debtor, in the Hands of the respective Sheriffs, subject as aforesaid, to a Distribution, in Manner aforesaid; and the Sale and Service of such Debtor as aforesaid, is hereby directed to be taken as a full and sufficient Acquittal and Discharge, against all Debts due from such Debtor before such Sale and Service as aforesaid, any Thing to the contrary notwithstanding."

And the Petitions of several languishing Prisoners in the County Goals of this Province; and the Petitions of *Capt. William McClellen*, *Capt. Evan Shelby*, and of *Mary Covington*, Administratrix of *Philip Covington*, of *Somerset* County, deceased, severally indorsed, "By the Upper House of Assembly, Referred to the Consideration of the Lower House."

Which Petitions were severally Read here the first Time, and *Ordered* to lie on the Table.

The House adjourns till II of the Clock.

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