

Endeavors to Convey them to their owners or the next justice of peace to be conveyed from constable to constable vntill they be delivered to their s^d owners if then living within this province This act to continue for 3 yeares or to the End of the next generall assembly which shall first come

P. R. O.
Colonial En-
try Book
No. 53

An act Limiting Serv^{ts} Tymes

Forasmuch as this Assembly takeing into their Serious Consideracon the great charge and hazard th^t the people of this province are att in procuring Serv^{ts} for their necessary Employ^{ts} & in regard the time th^t has hitherto been allowed by the former law to such as have transported servants into this province without Indenture being above one & twenty yeares of age was but foure yeares service in which tyme itt is considered the Master & owners of such Serv^{ts} cannot recieve that reasonable satisfaccōn for the charges trouble & greate hazard which all masters and Owners of Serv^{ts} are and must of necessity be att with their Servants This assembly does therefore pray that itt may be Enacted and be itt therefore Enacted by the R^t hono^{ble} the Lord Prōp^r by and with the Avise and consent of the vpper and Lower house of this present generall assembly that who-soever shall transporte any Servant into this Province without Indenture and such Serv^t being above the age of twenty two yeares shall be obliged to serve the full Space and terme of five yeares if between 18 & 22 without Indenture 6 yeares if betweene 15 & 18 without Indenture Seaven yeares if vnder fifteen yeares and coming in without Indenture as afores^d such Serv^t shall serve till he or shee arrive to the full age of 22 yeares And be itt further Enacted th^t all serv^{ts} transported out of Virg^a into this Province shall complete their time of service here which they ought to have served in Virg^a & noe more And be itt further Enacted that every Master Mistress or dame assignee or trustee of what Kind soever ownning or keeping any such Serv^t as aforesaid whether by vertue of transportacōn purchase or otherwise shall within six months after the Recieving such serv^t into their Custody within this province except he shee or they claime but five yeares service of such serv^t bring the s^d Serv^t into their Respective County Court where they doe inhabite And every of the said Courts are hereby authorised to judge & determine of the age of such Sevants soe brought and cause the same to be entered vpon Record and every Owner as afores^d neglecting or Refusing to bring such Servant or Servants before the Court as afores^d shall not only stand to the determinacōn of the Court but alsoe suffer the penalty of one thousand pounds of tobacco to the Lord Prop^r for depriving the Courts of such opportunity of veiw