

October, Anno Domini Seventeen Hundred and Twenty-Four, Entituled, An Act relieving the Inhabitants of this Province from some Difficulties they may lie under in paying their Levies and other just Debts this Year, has not sufficiently reliev'd many People within this Province, from the Hardships they laboured under, for want of Tobacco to pay Levies and Officers Fees, but many of them obliged to pass Obligations to the several Sheriffs within this Province, for much larger Sums of Money than ever the Legislature intended they should be obliged to pay for such Debts, which will be the utter Ruin of many Families, if not timely prevented :

Session  
Laws  
[Ch. IV, VI,  
VIII of Acts  
this Session,  
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beginning at  
427]

Be it therefore Enacted, by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietor, by and with the Advice and Consent of His Lordship's Governour, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the Authority of the same, That it shall not be lawful for any Person to commence any Action or Suit whatsoever, upon any Obligation, Note, Bill, or other Writing, which hath been given or pass'd this present Year, for the Payment of any Sum or Sums of Money for any Tobacco due to any Attorney, Sheriff, or other Officer, for Levies or Fees, which have arisen or become due since the Twenty Fifth Day of December, Seventeen Hundred and Twenty Two, but such Obligations shall be deemed, taken and held to be void, and both Debtors and Creditors in the same State they would have been in, if such Obligations, Bills, or other Writing had not been made or pass'd. And that it shall not be lawful for any Person to take, demand, sue for, or recover, for any Tobacco which hath arisen, or become due since the Time aforesaid, for Levies, Attorneys, or other Officers Fees, any more than the Principal Debt, with Eight per Cent. for the Interest and Damage for the Non-payment thereof; any Law, Statute, Usage or Custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

And be it further Enacted, by the Authority, Advice and Consent aforesaid, That any Person sued for any Tobacco due for Levies, Attorneys, or Officers Fees, or upon any Obligation, Bill or other Writing, made or pass'd this present Year, for any Tobacco due for Levies, Attorneys, Sheriffs or other Officers Fees, may plead the General Issue, and give this Act and the special Matter therein in Evidence. p. 274

And be it further Enacted, by the Authority, Advice and Consent aforesaid, That where any Sheriff hath actually paid any Sum of Money to any Attorney or Officer, on Account of Fees put into his Hands to collect, which the said Sheriff hath not received, it shall and may be lawful for the said Sheriff to sue for and recover such Money back from such Attorney or Officer (unless such Sheriff voluntarily purchased such Fees of such Attorney or Officer :) Any Law, Statute, Usage or Custom to the contrary, notwithstanding.