

Public Record Office, London. C. O. 5, Vol. 731, Maryland. From 1694-1702. Acts of June, 1697, ch. 12

from day to day untill they have fully compleated & Ended the same any former Law or usuage to the contrary notwithstanding.

An Act for apportioning & paying £156..10s

Be it Enacted by the Kings Most Excellent Majty &c<sup>a</sup> That certain Persons appointed by this Generall Assembly this present Sessions to apportion the Publick Levey are hereby Impowred to apportion & pay £156..10s. Sterling Mony according to the directions of a certain Ordinance made this present Sessions of Assembly.

Acts of March, 1697/8, ch. 1

An Act for Restraining the Extortions of Sherriffs, Subsherriffs and Deputy Commissaries.

[Other Acts of this Session are printed in Vol. 22 of the Archives]

Whereas there hath been divers & great complaints from severall parts of this Province to this present Generall Assembly of severall Sherriffs Subsherriffs and Deputy Commissaries of their Exacting & Extorting great summes of Tobacco above their due & Lawfull Fees ascertain by the Acts of Assembly of this Province from severall of the Inhabitants of this Province. And tho' the Laws of this Province have Inflicted a severe penalty upon any Officer that shall charge & receive more then his due Fees Yett the said Officers have most cunningly & Craftily Evaded the said Laws by taking Bills & Writings Obligatory without ever delivering any Account sign'd under their hand, as the Law directs, so that the party grieved can not sufficiently prove the said Extortions & so is left without remedy for prevention whereof. Be It Enacted by the Kings Most Excellent Majty by & with the advice & consent of this present Generall Assembly & the Authority of the same, that no Sherriffe, Subsherriffe or Deputy Commissary within this Province after the publication of this Act in their severall & respective Countys wherein they dwell, shall take any bond, Bill, or Writting Obligatory of any person or persons upon any pretence whatsoever without Endorsing the accounts on the back of the said bill, bond or Writting Obligatory, for which the same was passed, and if any Sherriffe Subsherriffe or Deputy Commissarys within this Province shall during the tyme that he remaine in his place or Office upon any pretence whatsoever take any Bond, Bill, or Writting Obligatory without indorsing the account on the back of the said Bill, Bond, or writing obligatory aforesaid by which it may appeare upon what consideration the same was taken the said bill, bond, or Writting Obligatory shall be voide & of no Effect, and the Officer or Officers that tooke the same, shall Loose his debt and for ever be debarred of suing any other Action for the Recovery of the same, any Law, Statute, or Usage to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding. And that whereas the said Officers are prohibited from taking any bills upon any pretence whatsoever during the tyme they remaine in Office to the Intent the said Officers may receive no damage by the Act of Assembly for Limitation