

Public authority of the same, that noe County Court within this Province, shall hold Plea or have Jurisdiction for the heareing or Trying or determining of any Action or Actions before them brought, Either by Bond, Bill Assumption reckoning or Account wherein the demand made doth not Exceed the Summe of Two hundred pounds of Tobbacco or Twelve shillings sterling, But that in all such cases wherein the demand made doth not Exceed the Summe of Two hundred pounds of Tobbacco, or Twelve shillings sterling aforesaid, It shall and may be Lawfull for any one Justice of the Peace within the severall and respective Countys wherein the person Debtor doth reside to trye hear and determine the matter of Controversie between the party and partys Debtor and Creditor as aforesaid upon application to him made by any Creditor or Creditors of such Debtor or Debtors aforesaid, and at the time of the application aforesaid such Justices is allso authorized and Impowred & allso willed and required to Issue out his Warrant, & to depute such person for to Execute the same as he shall think fitt, to command and bring before him, the person of such Debtor or Debtors, and allso Summons to Issue for such Witnesses as either Plaintiff or Defendant shall have occasion to make use of, with power to administer Oath or Oathes to either Plaintiff or Diffend<sup>t</sup> or to any of their or Either of their Evidences as occasion shall require, for the better clearing of the matter in question before him, And upon full hereing of the allegations of either Party or Partys, what may or can upon Oath be given in Evidences by any of their Evidences, to proceed to Judgement as the nature of the case shall require, whose determination shall be finall, all which such Justice of the Peace before whom such matter of Contraversie shall be brought, shall doe gratis, and if such party or partys against whom Judgement shall be given, shall refuse or delay to pay such Debt, as shall be awarded against him or them, then it shall and may allso be Lawfull for such Justice of the Peace to award Execution against the said Party or Partys for the Debt aforesaid by fieri facias or capias ad Satisfaciendum directed to the Sheriff of the County, which said Sheriff upon receipt of such precept, from such Justice aforesaid shall Imediately thereupon Levey the same upon his her or their good and Chattles, or Body, as the Matter of the Writt shall require, all which such Sheriff shall doe Ex Officio, Any Law Useage or Custome to the contrary notwithstanding

This Act to Endure for three years or to the end of the next Generall Assembly which shall first hapen, a former Act of this Title to the same purpose being now Expired and made Void.

Acts of Sept. 1696, ch. 22 An Act Relating to Bayle to be taken by the Sheriffs in accõns of Trespass upon the Case.

Whereas many Litigious persons commence Accõns of Trespass upon the Case against severall good people of this Province rather