

aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the Owners of such Servants, (unless the Offence whereof he, she, or they shall be convicted be Capital, and that the Offender or Offenders are actually executed for the same,) at or before the Time of the Expiration of such Servants Servitude, to carry such Servant to the County-court held for their County, and on their making it fully appear to the Justices of such Court, how much Tobacco hath been paid by them for such Servant, on Account of such Prosecutions, it shall and may be lawful for the Justices of such Court, and they are hereby required, to adjudge what Time (not exceeding Three Years,) they shall think reasonable, to serve the Owner in Recompence to such Fees paid as aforesaid; unless such Servant can make Payment thereof in some other Manner.

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Laws

And be it Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That all Masters and Owners of Women Servants, having Bastard Children, shall be obliged to maintain such Bastard Children, at his and their own proper Cost and Charge, during the Continuance of such Servant Woman in his or their Service.

Provided, That it shall and may be lawful for the Justices of the County-court, where such Bastard Child or Children shall be born, to adjudge the Mother or Mothers of such Bastard Child or Children, where the Father is unknown, or incapable to make any satisfaction, to make her or their Master or Owners full Satisfaction and Recompence by Servitude or otherwise, for maintaining and supporting such Bastard Child or Children. Any Law, Usage, or Custom to the contrary, notwithstanding.

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Provided always, That where the Begetter, or Begetters of such Bastard Child or Children, is or are Resident or Residents within this Province, of Ability to maintain such Child or Children, and lawfully convict of being the Begetter or Begetters of such Child or Children, it shall and may be lawful in all such Cases, for the several Justices of the Peace to oblige such Father or Begetter to support and maintain such Bastard Child or Children as heretofore they might have done. Any Thing in this Act to the contrary, notwithstanding.

An Act giving Encouragement to make Hemp, within this Province. Chap. III

Forasmuch as the Tobacco-Trade is reduc'd to very mean Circumstances, and it is generally thought that the making of Hemp will be of great Use, not only to this Province, but to the Kingdom of Great-Britain, for supplying of Naval Stores:

Be it Enacted, by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, 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 if any Person or Persons, living or inhabiting within this Province, shall hereafter make, either by themselves, their ser-