

Knotts and John Posey of Queen Anns County Archibald Campbell and Abraham Covington of Somerset County; James Stradley of Talbot County & Thomas Stoakes of Dorchester County: by their Petitions to this present General Assembly have set forth, that they have respectively continued Prisoners for Debt in the Custody of the Sheriffs of the respective Counties aforesaid for a considerable Time past & still continue in the like Deplorable Circumstances not being able to redeem their Bodies with all the Estate or Interest they have in the World, which they would readily surrender up & part with to their several & respective Creditors, if they would accept of the same, & grant the said Petitioners their Liberty, which seems so unlikely for them to obtain. That (unless relieved by a particular Act to be passed in their Favour, which by their said Petitions they have humbly prayed) they must inevitably continue Prisoners for Life & as the Allegations of the said Petitioners appear to this General Assembly to be true & that their lying in Jail can be of no Advantage to their Creditors, it is humbly prayed that the said Petitioners may be relieved according to their Prayers & that it may be enacted.

Liber R. G.
1771

And be it enacted by the Right Honorable the Lord Proprietary by and with the Advice & Consent of his Lordship's Governor & the Upper & Lower Houses of Assembly & the Authority of the same, That in Case the said Prisoners shall deliver up, & surrender or cause to be delivered up & surrendered to the Sheriffs of the respective Counties aforesaid in the Presence of two Justices of the Peace, of the Counties aforesaid, whom the said Sheriffs are hereby required to summon at the Request of the said Prisoners, at some convenient Time after the End of this Session of Assembly, all their real & personal Estate either in Possession Reversion, Remainder or in Trust or in or unto which they have any Claim or Interest whatsoever, & likewise convey, assign transfer & make over unto the Sheriffs respectively for the Use of the said Creditors; all such their Estate Interest or Claim as aforesaid after such Manner as by the said Sheriffs & by the Major Part of such Creditors or such of them as shall think fit to direct therein or their Council learned in the Law shall reasonably devise or require at the Costs & Charges of the Persons who shall claim Benefit thereof, so that the said Prisoners be not burthened with any Warrantees thereby other than against themselves or those claiming by from or under them & that the said Prisoners at the Time of such their Surrender & transferring their Estate as aforesaid shall take their solemn Oaths (or Affirmation if Quakers) before the said two Justices as aforesaid to the Effect following Viz.^t I A B do affirm or solemnly swear that the Goods Debts & Effects which I have delivered assigned & made over to the Sheriff of _____ County in Trust for the Use of my Creditors is the whole Estate both real & personal of my own in Possession, or that I have any Title to in the World, & that I have not any Estate

[Prisoners
to be dis-
charged on
delivering up
their Effects
on Oath.]

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[The Oath.]