

ACTS OF THE ASSEMBLY PASSED DURING
JUNE-JULY, 1773

At a Session of Assembly begun and held at the City of Annapolis on Tuesday the fifteenth Day of June in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and seventy three and in the second year of the Dominion of the Right Honourable Henry Harford Esquire Absolute Lord and Proprietary of the Province of Maryland and ending the third Day of July following, the following Laws were enacted and assented to by his Excellency Robert Eden Esquire Governor

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No. 1 An Act concerning Estates-tail and the Jurisdiction of the County Courts.

Whereas Common Recoveries are considered as a Mode of Conveyance by which Tenants in Tail are enabled to convey and dispose of their Lands and Tenements but the said Mode of Conveyance is attended with an heavy Expence and great Inconvenience by reason of a necessary and chargeable Attendance in many Cases on the Provincial Court [Preamble.]

Be it therefore enacted by the Right honourable the Lord Proprietary by and with the Advice and Consent of his Governor and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly and the Authority of the same that any Person or Persons seised of any Estate-Tail in Possession Reversion or Remainder shall have full Power to grant bargain sell and convey any Lands Tenements or Hereditaments whereof he she or they shall be so seised by such manner and form of Conveyance or Assurance as any Person seised of an Estate in fee-simple may by the Laws of this Province grant bargain sell and Convey any Lands Tenements or Hereditaments whereof such Person is seised of an Estate in Fee-Simple and all and every such Grants Bargains Sales and Conveyances of any Person or Persons so seised in Tail shall be good and available to all Intents and Purposes against all and every Person and Persons whom the Grantor Bargainor or vendor might or could debar by any Mode of Common Recovery or any ways or means whatsoever any Law or Usage to the Contrary Notwithstanding [Persons seised of Estates-tail, may sell and convey them in the same manner as those seised of Estates in Fee-simple.]

And Whereas it is often grievously inconvenient to Defendants and Witnesses to attend at the Provincial Court in Annapolis and in no wise necessary or expedient for the due Administration of Justice in the Cases of such Suits or Actions as are cognizable by the Justices of the County Courts and as it may give great Relief to Witnesses and Jurymen as well as to Suitors to Confer on the