

An Act for Tryal of all Matters of Fact in the several Counties where they have arisen or shall arise.

W H E R E A S the Trial of Facts in the Neighbourhood where they arise, is the greatest Security of the Lives, Liberties, Fortunes and Estates of the Subjects, most agreeable to the *British* Constitution, and a very great ease to all Persons concerned, and that the increase of Business in the Provincial Court renders the Decision of Causes there, without very great delay and expence, impracticable. Preamble.

Be it therefore Enacted by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the Advice and Consent of his Lordship's Governor, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the Authority of the same, That Two Justices of the Provincial Court, on each side of the Bay, (such as the Governor, or Commander in Chief for the Time being, shall think fit to appoint) shall be Justices of Assize, *Nisi prius*, and Justices of Oyer and Terminer and Goal Delivery; and that the said Two Justices, or either of them (in case of Sicknes or other inability) shall and may at the respective Times in this Act mentioned, Hear and Try all Matters of Fact in all Actions Real, Personal, and Mixt, and all Actions Popular for the breach of any Law, that is now depending, or that shall be commenced in the Provincial Court, in the several Counties where the Facts have arisen or shall arise, and not elsewhere; except in any special Causes, where it shall appear that Justice cannot in all Probability be so equally administered to the Parties, as if Tryal should be appointed in some other Place; as fully and amply as any Justices of Assize and *Nisi prius* in *England* used, or by Law ought or may try, hear, and determine: And that all Treasons, Murthers, Felonies, and other Crimes, Offences, and Misdemeanours, of what Nature or Quality soever, that have been, or by Law might be, tried in the Provincial Court, shall be heard, tried, and determined by the said Justices, in the several Counties where they shall be committed, as fully and amply as the said Offences, or any of them, might have been tried, heard, and determined by the Provincial Court, or any Court of Oyer and Terminer, and Goal-Delivery, according to the Laws of *England* and this Province. *Provided always,* That nothing in this Act shall be construed to divest the County-Courts of any Jurisdiction they have, and that they may hear and determine all Matters and Things within their Cognizance as they have heretofore done; any Thing in this Act to the contrary notwithstanding. Two Justices of Assize to be appointed for each Shore.

Their Duty, &c.

And be it Enacted, that two of the Provincial Justices to be appointed as aforesaid, on the Western Shore, or one of them, in case of the other's Sicknes or Inability, shall meet and hold their Courts, at *Baltimore* County Court-House, the Monday before the first Tuesday in *April* and *September*, yearly; at *Annapolis*, for *Anne Arundel* County, the Friday after the said first Tuesdays; at *Calvert* County Court-House, the Friday after the second Tuesdays of the said Months; at *St. Mary's* County Court-House, the Wednesdays after the third Tuesdays in the said Months; at *Charles* County Court-House, the Mondays after the said third Tuesdays in the said Months; and at *Prince George's* County Court-House, the Mondays following: And that two of the Provincial Justices on the Eastern Shore, to be appointed as aforesaid, or one of them in case the other should be sick or incapable to attend, shall meet and hold their Courts, at *Worcester* County Court-House, on the Thursdays before the first Tuesdays in the Months of *April* and *September*, yearly; at *Somerset* County Court-House, the first Tuesdays of the said Months, yearly; at *Dorchester* County Court-House, the first Mondays after; at *Talbot* County Court-House, the Thursdays after the second Tuesdays; at *Queen Anne's* County Court-House, the Wednesdays after the third Tuesdays; at *Kent* County Court-House, the Mondays after the third Tuesdays in the same Months; and at *Cecil* County Court-House, the Fridays following; to hear, determine, and dispatch such Business as shall be before them. Provido.

Places and Days, at, and on which the said Courts of Assize are to be held.

And be it further Enacted, That in all Actions now depending in the Provincial Court, where the General Issue, or other General Plea, tending to an Issue