

Inhabitants of this Province daily desert their habitations and remove themselves to plantations and Colonies where they are free to live — Serviceable to her most Gracious Majesty and her Revenue — of Customs of Tobacco and other duties — leave their Abodes and Stalk in the woods or otherwise ride armed with design to resist the Officers of Justice whereby the happy peace and tranquillity of this Province seem to be greatly endangered. All which loudly calls for some speedy and proper — Remedy to be applied thereto, wherefore this present Generall Assembly humbly supplicates her most Gracious Majesty that it may be Enacted —

And be it Enacted by her Queens most Excellent Majesty by and with the Advice and Consent of her Majesties present Council and Assembly of this Province and the Authority of the same That from and after the End of this Session of Assembly all persons — whatsoever residing — negotiating or trading to or within this Province having any personall Claim or Demand against any of the Inhabitants of this Province wherein the Original or principall Debt or Damages doe not exceed the value of Twenty pounds Sterling or five thousand pounds of Tobacco shall by virtue of this Act be Obligated to sue and prosecute their severall and respective Debts in the severall and respective County Courts where such their Debtors Inhabitants and reside and not Elsewhere on penalty of suffering a nonsuit and paying the Defendant his reasonable Charges to be adjudged by the Justice of any other Court wherein they shall be sued or impleaded. Any Law Statute or Custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid by and with the Advice and Consent aforesaid that where any Debt or Damages is demanded by virtue of any Bond or Writing Obligatory the penalty of such Bond shall not although it exceed Twenty pounds in money or five thousand pounds of Tobacco entitle any person to bring his Action in any Court but the County Court unless the whole sum due in the condition of such Bond amounts to Twenty pounds or five thousand pounds of Tobacco. Any thing in this Act or any other Statute Law Custom or Usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

And be it always that nothing in this Act shall extend or be construed to extend to detain or hinder any person from bringing his Action in the Provinciall or Superior Court or any Court or on any Bond for performance of any Covenant or for the performance or suffering of any Act or thing or thing whatsoever, although the real damages or sum recovered by such Action or Covenant be less than Twenty pounds Sterling or five thousand pounds of Tobacco, but the penalty of such Bond for the performance of Covenant or performance or suffering of any other matter or thing whatsoever exceed Twenty pounds in money or five thousand pounds of Tobacco. But no Bond for payment or performance of any Bill of Exchange shall be so operated in any Court but the County Court unless the Original or principall sum mentioned in such Bill of Exchange and due on payment or protest be of amount to Twenty pounds Sterling. Any thing in this Act or any other Statute