

Assembly Proceedings, February – March 1638/9:
An Act Limiting the times of Servants*

Be it Enacted By the Lord proprietary of this province of and with the advice & approbation of the freemen of the same That all persons being Christians (Slaves excepted) of the age of eighteen years or above and brought into this province ... shall serve such person at whose charge and adventure they were so transported for the full terme of foure years only to commence from his or their Arrivall in the province (except any other time were contracted for by Convent And the Charge shall be accompted and adjudged that persons by whom or whose order the passage money was paid to the Master or Merchant

And all persons under the age of eighteen yeeres transported into this province ... shall serve such person at whose Charge he or they were so transported until such person or persons so transported shall be of the full age of four and twenty Years.

And every maid Servant being Christian ... of the age of twelve Years old or under shall be bound to Serve the partie or parties transporting her or them for Seven Years and if she above the age of twelve Years She Shall serve for four Years only... and at the end of any the said termes of Service expired the Master or Mistress of such Servant ... Shall give unto such man or maid Servant such Conditions as were Covenanted by the Indentures ... or (in default if such Covenant shall give unto them three barrells of Corn a hilling hoe and a weeding hioe and a felling axe and to a man Servant one new Cloth sute one new Shirt one pair of new Shews one pair of new Stockins and a new monmoth Capp and to a maid Servant one new petty coat and wast coat one new smock one pair of new Shoes one pair of new stockings and the cloths formerly belonging to the Servant This Act to Continue till the end of the next General Assembly

*Excerpted version