

BILL

For the relief of Insolvent Debtors.

WHEREAS it is expedient to make provision for the relief of Insolvent Debtors, in this Province; Be it therefore enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of the Province of Lower-Canada, constituted and assembled by virtue of and under the authority of an Act passed in the Parliament of Great Britain, intituled, "An Act to repeal certain parts of an Act, passed in the fourteenth year of His Majesty's reign, intituled, "An Act for making more effectual provision for the Government of the Province of Quebec in North-America," and to make further provision for the Government of the said Province;" And it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that from and after the passing of this Act, it shall be lawful for the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or Person administering the Government of the Province for the time being, by an instrument under the Great Seal of the Province, to constitute and establish, in each of the Districts of this Province, a Board or Court, to consist of persons, the President whereof shall be a Barrister at Law, of six years standing in this Province, at the least, to be a Board or Court for the relief of Insolvent Debtors, to be called "The Court for the relief of Insolvent Debtors," which shall respectively be Courts of Record for the purposes of this Act, and that when and as soon as the appointments shall have been notified in the Quebec and Montreal Gazettes, such Courts shall respectively be deemed fully constituted and established.

II. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that it shall be lawful for every person who shall be a prisoner in any prison in this Province, upon any process whatsoever, issuing from any Court whatsoever, for or by reason of any debt, damage, costs, sum or sums of money or contempt for non-payment of money, and who shall have been in actual custody upon some process, for some or one of the said debts or demands during the space of three Calendar months or more, to apply by petition, in a summary way, to the Court to be established by virtue of this Act, in the District in which such prisoner may be confined, for his or her discharge from such confinement, according to the provisions of this Act; and in such petition the prisoner shall state the prison wherein he shall then be confined, the time when he was first charged in custody, the process or writ, with the date thereof, upon which he is there detained in prison, together with the name or names of the person or persons at whose suit or prosecution such prisoner shall, at the time of presenting such petition, be detained in prison, and the amount of the debts or sums of money for which such prisoner shall be so detained, and shall pray to be discharged from custody upon all such process, and to have future liberty of his or her person against the demands for which such prisoner shall be then in custody, and against the demands of all other persons who shall be named or specified as Creditors, or as claiming to be Creditors of such prisoner, in the Schedule annexed to such petition, and such prisoner shall, by such petition, offer to convey, assign and deliver to