

On motion of Mr. Berrett, read the second time by special order, passed and returned to the senate.

Mr. Carroll reported a bill, entitled, an act for the promotion of education in Somerset county,

Which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

The hour having arrived for taking up the order of the day, the house proceeded to consider the bill reported by Mr. Williams, entitled, an act to abolish in the State of Maryland the law of imprisonment for debt.

Mr. Alexander moved to amend said bill by striking out in the 1st section, fifth line, these words, "by unquestionable testimony on oath," Determined in the negative.

On motion of Mr. Williams, the 1st section of said bill was amended by striking out the word "unquestionable."

On motion of Mr. Ford, said section was further amended by striking out in the fourth line thereof the words "have been or."

Mr. Causin moved further to amend said section by striking out in the 2d line thereof the words, "or to hold to special bail."

☐ Determined in the negative.

Mr. Williams moved further to amend said bill by adding at the end thereof, as additional sections, the following:

#### Amendment proposed,

Sec. 3, And be it enacted, that, at any time, on application being made by a creditor to any justice of a court having jurisdiction of the amount of debt which shall be sworn by said creditor to be due, if he the said justice shall be satisfied on hearing the testimony on oath of *three* persons of good character, of whom the creditor himself may be one, that the debtor hath committed or is committing a fraud against his creditors or some of them by fraudulently concealing, conveying or by any device putting away his property out of such creditors' reach, the said justice shall thereupon grant to such creditor an order in writing directed to the Sheriff or Constable as the case may be, requiring said officer to take security for the said debtor's appearance at the next sitting of said Court, or to commit him to prison in case such security be not given:— provided that before granting to said creditor an order as aforesaid the said justice shall require said creditor to state in writing, and upon oath, the description and value of the property of which said Debtor hath defrauded or is defrauding his creditors as aforesaid.

Sec. 4, And be it enacted that from and after the fourth day of July aforesaid it shall not be lawful to sue forth or issue out of any Court in this State any writ of "*capias ad respondendum*" against any person or persons being a citizen or citizens of Maryland, for any debt or money claimed on contract or otherwise; but that, in lieu of said writ, there shall be substituted a "*subpoena*," in which shall be set forth the nature and cause of the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs' complaint; and that, on the return, by the proper officer, of the "*subpoena*" endorsed "*summoned*," the defendant or defendants shall