

to William Worthington; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Brogden appeared in the house.

On motion by Mr. Fell seconded by Mr. Norris, the question was put, That the house reconsider the number of commissioners to value the lands within this state? Resolved in the affirmative.

On motion by Mr. Fell seconded by Mr. Norris, the question was put, That three commissioners be appointed to value the lands within this state? Resolved in the affirmative.

On motion by Mr. Lloyd seconded by Mr. Cradock, the question was put, That one of the said commissioners be a resident of the eastern shore? The yeas and nays being called for by Mr. Lloyd and seconded by Mr. Cradock appeared as follow:

A F F I R M A T I V E.					
C. Smyth,	Cradock,	Kent,	Courfey,	Norris,	Chapline.
M. Lloyd,					
N E G A T I V E.					
Bond,	Weems,	Done,	Hawkins,	Beatty,	Fell,
B. Worthington,	Dent,	Job,	Chafe,	Taylor,	Burgess,
N. Worthington,	Stone,	Brevard,	Quynn,	Wheeler,	Griffith,
Hall,	Wilkinson,	Miller,	Dathiel,	Hopper,	Oneale,
Fitzhugh,	Courts,	Rowland,	Shriver,	M'Mechen,	Edwards.
Chew,	Hindman,	Magruder,	Ogle,		

So it was determined in the negative.

On motion by Mr. Chafe seconded by Mr. Hindman, the question was put, That the following clauses be received as an amendment to the bill to raise the supplies for the year seventeen hundred and eighty-three?

“ And, that equality and justice in the valuation of lands between individuals and the several counties may be obtained as far as possible, Be it enacted, That William Bruff, William Harrison, and William Richardson, Esquires, be and are hereby appointed commissioners, to repair to the several counties of this state, to value the land in each county, with the buildings, houses, and other improvements thereon, at its present actual worth, in ready money, in coin, at the value ascertained by law; and it is declared to be the duty of the said commissioners, in their valuation, to consider all circumstances and advantages of every tract of land, from its situation or convenience to market, and what the same is capable of producing by the acre, in grain, tobacco, or hay, and the average current price, in coin, of the produce where raised; and it is also declared to be their particular duty, to estimate the land in each county, and in different counties, of equal quality and advantages, at the same price and value; and to compare the returns of land valued in each county with the several debt books of the late proprietary, and to note if any land granted, and for which quit-rents have been paid, is omitted in such valuation, and to transmit a list thereof to the commissioners of the tax of each county, who shall diligently enquire after such land, and, if found, take care that the same be valued.

“ And, to enable the said commissioners to execute their trust, Be it enacted, That they shall call on the commissioners of the tax, and on the assessors of land in the several counties appointed in virtue of this act, to meet them at the place where the county courts of the county are usually held (and every commissioner and assessor shall attend on notice, under the penalty of twenty pounds) and the said commissioners of the tax and assessors shall examine with the said commissioners the return of the valuation of land in their county agreeable to this act, and give them every information in their power respecting the same; and particularly the said commissioners of the tax shall make a list of the land in four classes, to wit: Such tracts as were valued as of the best quality and worth, and such as were estimated of the middling quality and worth, and such as were adjudged of ordinary and indifferent quality and worth, and such as were estimated of the worst quality and worth; and the said commissioners, or some one of them, shall afterwards view as many of the tracts of each class as time will permit.

“ And be it enacted, That the clerks of the several counties shall deliver to the said commissioners the original certificates returned by the assessors and corrected by the commissioners, and lodged with them, agreeable to this act, and also the lists from the debt books lodged with them agreeable to the act to assess and impose an equal tax on all property within this state, passed at February session seventeen hundred and seventy-seven.

“ And be it enacted, That the said commissioners be directed to meet at the city of Annapolis, on or before the first day of November next (or as soon thereafter as they have completed their valuation of the land in the several counties) and make out a fair, accurate, and complete account of the lands in each county, and their names, with the number of acres and present owners, in alphabetical order, and the value of each tract, and a summary account of the number of acres in each county, and the total and average value thereof, and the total and average value of all the land in the state; and to each account annex an alphabetical list of the lands, referring