

Margaret his wife, executors of the will of John Paca, Jr., of Baltimore County, to dispose of by public vendue certain lands belonging to the estate of the late Colonel William Hammond in order to settle a debt of the Hammond estate due to the estate of John Paca, Jr. who had been a surety for Hammond. It appears that Hammond had mortgaged certain lands to Richard Moale but was unable to pay off the loan when it fell due. John Paca, Jr., who had gone surety for Hammond, paid the amount of the Moale mortgage and took an assignment of it. The act in question is very lengthy, covering four pages of this printed record, and involves various legal technicalities which need not be entered into here. It is, however, a mine of genealogical information to those interested in the Paca and Hammond families (pp. 332, 338, 340, 370, 427-431). Perhaps it was the legal complications and intricacies involved that had postponed action in this case for legislative relief over a period of five years, as the matter had come before every session since November-December, 1758, by petitions from the executors. An act was passed [*No. XXV*] to confirm the sale by Draper Lusby and his wife Frances, executors under the will of John Hynson, to Matthew Bryan of a tract of land of one hundred and forty-one acres on Eastern Neck Island, Kent County. Hynson's will directed that for the payment of his debts, this land be sold and conveyance of it made within three months of his death. The land had been put up twice at public vendue before it was finally sold to Bryan, but the deed could not be executed until after the three months time limitation had expired. This act validated the sale (pp. 327, 330, 338, 340, 508-510). There was also passed an act [*No. XXX*] empowering Richard Richardson, Jr. of Frederick County, the heir at law of Richard Richardson, Sr., late of Frederick County, deceased, to sell certain lands belonging to his father's estate, and after the payment of his debts, to divide the proceeds between the children of the testator as provided in the will. The will had directed that the land be sold by the executors, but as those appointed under the will had refused to serve, the terms of the will could not be carried out. The act empowered the son to make the sale and to distribute the proceeds (pp. 327, 330, 373, 375, 381, 514-516).

A considerable amount of proposed legislation which originated in the Lower House at this session failed to receive approval in the Upper House. An attempt by the Lower House to make more stringent the act already in force to prevent the use of false standards of English weights and measures was frustrated by an amendment added to the bill in the Upper House specifying that one-third of the fines and forfeitures imposed under it should go to the Proprietary, one-third for county charges, and one-third to the informer. The Lower House, not wishing any of the fines to go to the Proprietary, promptly rejected the bill as amended (pp. 354, 362, 371, 376), but at the 1765 session the Lower House had its way when an act relating to weights and measures was passed which divided the fines and forfeitures equally between the county and the informer, excluding the Proprietary (*Hanson Laws of Maryland Made Since 1763*; acts of 1765, Chap. 1). Other Lower House bills rejected by the Upper House at this session were directed at Roman Catholics and are discussed in another section (pp. lxxv-lxxvi).