

The bills involving changes in legal procedure which failed of passage were the following: (1) For the issuing of writs of replevin out of the county courts; a bill with this title had also failed of passage at the preceding Assembly, doubtless due to the desire of the Proprietary to keep such matters in the provincial courts at Annapolis, over which he had more direct control than over the county courts (pp. 157, 180, 183). (2) For the relief of creditors against defendants who were non-residents (p. 181); a bill with this title failed of passage in the Lower House, nor had such a bill come up at previous sessions. (3) For the relief of insolvent debtors; a bill with this title had been introduced in the Lower House and passed by it at the November–December, 1766, session, but had been tabled by the Upper House (pp. 181, 187, 190, 118); it was probably similar to the act of 1774, which allowed debtors under certain conditions to bring their cases before three justices of a county court, without waiting for direct legislative action. This bill is not to be confused with the acts passed by the three sessions covered by this volume “for the relief of certain languishing prisoners in the several gaols” in which the beneficiaries are named. (4) For the security of purchasers and others being Protestant claiming by or from aliens; this bill which had been before previous assemblies, and was again passed by the Lower House, was as usual amended in the Upper House to protect Roman Catholic as well as Protestant purchasers of land from aliens, but the Lower House again refused to extend this protection to Catholics, and after amendment in the upper chamber, it was unanimously rejected below (pp. lxxii, 181, 182, 184, 187, 114, 118, 190-191). (5) for the more speedy foreclosure of mortgages; a bill with this title had come up at the November–December, 1765, session, and action upon it referred to the next Assembly (*Arch. Md.* LIX, xxxvii); when it came up again at the November–December, 1766, session, action upon it was again deferred in the Lower House (pp. 184, 196, 207), but it was not revived again in 1768. (6) A supplementary act to the act “for the directions of sheriffs and their ill practices”; this was an attempt by the Lower House to supplement the act with the above title passed in 1715 (*Arch. Md.* XXX, 264-270); the nature of the 1766 bill is not disclosed, but it was probably identical with the act passed in 1769, having the same title, which provided that a sheriff be penalized if he did not properly endorse certain legal papers which he received (*Hanson’s Laws of Maryland*, 1787; acts of 1769, chap. xv).

Governor Sharpe, having signed all acts passed by the 1768 Assembly, prorogued it to meet again on the first Tuesday of May, 1767 (p. 221). But it was destined never to come together again, for after numerous postponements, a call for the election of a new Assembly was issued by the Governor in the late autumn of 1767. The newly elected Assembly did not meet until May 24, 1768.

#### SESSION OF MAY–JUNE, 1768

When the Assembly elected in the autumn of 1764, which held its last session in November–December, 1766, ended that meeting on December 6th, it was prorogued by Governor Sharpe to the first Tuesday in May (5th), 1767,