

Sec. 20. A majority of the whole number of members elected to each House shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business ; but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and compel the attendance of absent members, in such manner, and under such penalties, as each House may prescribe.

Sec. 21. The doors of each House, and of the Committee of the Whole, shall be open, except when the business is such as ought to be kept secret.

Sec. 22. Each House shall keep a Journal of its proceedings, and cause the same to be published. The yeas and nays of members on any question shall, at the call of any five of them in the House of Delegates, or one in the Senate, be entered on the Journal.

Sec. 23. Each House may punish by imprisonment, during the session of the General Assembly, any person, not a member, for disrespectful or disorderly behaviour in its presence, or for obstructing any of its proceedings, or any of its officers in the execution of their duties ; provided, such imprisonment shall not, at any one time, exceed ten days.

Sec. 24. The House of Delegates may inquire, on the oath of witnesses, into all complaints, grievances and offences, as the Grand Inquest of the State, and may commit any person, for any crime, to the public jail, there to remain until discharged by due course of Law. They may examine and pass all accounts of the State, relating either to the collection or expenditure of the Revenue, and appoint Auditors to state and adjust the same. They may call for all public, or official papers and records, and send for persons whom they may judge necessary, in the course of their inquiries, concerning affairs relating to the public interest, and may direct all office bonds which shall be made payable to the State, to be sued for any breach thereof ; and with the view to the more certain prevention, or correction of the abuses in the expenditures of the money of the State, the General Assembly shall create, at every Session thereof, a Joint Standing Committee of the Senate and House of Delegates, who shall have power to send for persons, and examine them on oath, and call for public or official papers and records, and whose duty shall be to examine and report upon all contracts made for printing, stationery, and purchases for the public offices and the Library, and all expenditures therein, and upon all matters of alleged abuse in expenditures, to which their attention may be called by Resolution of either House of the General Assembly.

Sec. 25. Neither House shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, at any one time, nor