

to any civil office created by the constitution or laws of the State.

Sec. 14. No Senator or Delegate shall be liable in any civil action or criminal prosecution whatever for words spoken in debate.

Sec. 15. Each house shall be judge of the qualifications and elections of its members as prescribed by the constitution and laws of the State; shall appoint its own officers, determine the rule of its own proceedings, punish a member for disorderly or disrespectful behavior, and, with the consent of two-thirds of its whole number of members elected, expel a member, but no member shall be expelled a second time for the same offence.

Sec. 16. 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. 17. 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. 18. 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 upon the journal.

Sec. 19. Each house may punish by imprisonment during the session of the General Assembly any person not a member for disorderly or disrespectful behavior 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 time exceed ten days.

Sec. 20. The House of Delegates may inquire, on the oath of witnesses, into all complaints, grievances and offenses, 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