

long as the court, under all circumstances, shall in their discretion think reasonable, any thing in the aforesaid act to the contrary notwithstanding.

Continued by 1798, ch. 71, to October, 1805, and since continued by the annual continuing acts.

CHAPTER 45.

AN ACT concerning Petitions to the General Assembly.

WHEREAS it may happen that facts may be disclosed by petitions preferred to the general assembly, of which advantage may be taken, to the injury of the party petitioning; therefore, Preamble.

SEC. 2. *Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,* Right not to be invalidated, &c.
That whenever any petition or petitions shall be presented to the general assembly by any person or persons to confirm his, her or their title to any land within this state, or for any other purpose whatever, the right or claim of such person or persons, his, her or their representatives, to any matter or thing contained therein, shall not be invalidated by any means whatever until the end of the session of assembly to which the same shall be preferred; provided, that nothing in this act contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to prevent or delay any suit or suits, execution or executions, against the property of such petitioner or petitioners.

CHAPTER 46.

AN ACT respecting Writs of Inquiry.

WHEREAS great expenses necessarily attend the executing of a writ of inquiry issued upon an interlocutory judgment obtained in the general court, or in any of the county courts: And whereas the real merits of the case cannot be fully considered and examined when intricate questions of law occur in the course of the inquiry; therefore, Preamble.

SEC. 2. *Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,* In certain cases court may make an order, &c.
That from and after the end of this present session of assembly, in all cases when an interlocutory judgment is entered in the general court, or in any of the county courts, whereby the right of the plaintiff is established, but the damages sustained by him cannot be ascertained without the intervention of a jury, the court where such judgment is given may and shall, on the motion of the plaintiff, or of his attorney, make an order, in the nature of a writ of inquiry, to charge the jury attending at the same, or at the next term, to inquire of the damages and costs sustained by the plaintiff in such action, which said inquiry shall be made, and the evidence given, in open court, in the same manner, and under the same regulations, as in other jury trials; and after the said jury, charged as aforesaid, shall have