

*Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That <sup>Justices to meet, &c.</sup> the justices of the peace in the respective counties of this state, or any five of them, shall be and they are hereby authorized and required, on some day between the first day of March and the first day of October annually, to meet at the court-house of their respective counties to adjust the ordinary and necessary expenses of their several counties, including an allowance for the poor of the county, and public roads, and for the payment thereof, with a commission for collection not exceeding six per cent. to impose an assessment or rate on all property within their county sufficient to defray such county charge; and the said justices shall apportion such assessment or rate according to the last corrected valuation of property in their county, and shall appoint a person or persons to collect the same; and every collector, before he acts as such, shall give bond, payable to the state, with good and sufficient securities, such as the said justices shall approve of, in double the sum to be collected, with condition, 'that if the above bound — —, shall well and faithfully execute his office, and the several duties required of him by law, and shall well and truly account for and pay to the justices of the levy court, or their order, the several sums of money which he shall receive or be answerable for by law, at such time as the law shall direct, then the above obligation to be void.'

*Sec. 2. And be it enacted,* That the clerk of each county shall and he is hereby directed to keep a fair and accurate <sup>Clerk to keep a fair account, &c.</sup> account of such assessment or rate, and how disposed of by the levy court of his county, in a book to be kept for that purpose alone, and shall annually, within one month after such assessment, under the penalty of fifty pounds current money, transmit a copy thereof to the governor and council, for their information of the gross amount of the property in such county, and the amount of the tax for the county expenses; and such clerk shall also, within ten days after such assessment, under the penalty of two hundred pounds current money, deliver a fair copy thereof to the collector or collectors appointed as aforesaid; and such collector or collectors shall, and he or they are hereby authorized and required, within twenty days thereafter, to proceed to collect the same rate, and shall render an account thereof, and pay the same to the order of their respective levy courts, within six months after having received the assessment list from the clerk of his county as aforesaid, and in case of refusal or neglect to account or make payment, the said justices may, in their discretion, cause the bond of the collector failing in his duty to be put in suit; and the said justices, on taking bond, shall cause the same to be proved by the witnesses