

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 it 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.

This section referred to in upholding the right of the grand jury to have the ballot box and ballots before it in a judicial investigation of an election, and in saying that the traverser was not injured by the presence in the grand jury room for the purpose, and in the manner testified to, of the president of the board of police commissioners, and of a member of the board of election supervisors. *Cochran v. State*, 119 Md. 557.

Sec. 25. Neither House shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days at any one time, nor adjourn to any other place than that in which the House shall be sitting, without the concurrent vote of two-thirds of the members present.

Sec. 26. The House of Delegates shall have the sole power of impeachment in all cases; but a majority of all the members elected must concur in the impeachment. All impeachments shall be tried by the Senate, and when sitting for that purpose the Senators shall be on oath or affirmation to do justice according to the law and the evidence; but no person shall be convicted without the concurrence of two-thirds of all the Senators elected.

Sec. 27. Any bill may originate in either House of the General Assembly and be altered, amended or rejected by the other, but no bill shall originate in either House during the last ten days of the session, unless two-thirds of the members elected thereto shall so determine by yeas and nays; nor shall any bill become a law until it be read on three different days of the session in each House, unless two-thirds of the members elected to the House where such bill is pending shall so determine by yeas and nays, and no bill shall be read a third time until it shall have been actually engrossed or printed for a third reading.¹

The provision of this section requires that the bill be read not on three different calendar days but on three different legislative days. *Wyatt v. State Roads Comm.*, 175 Md. 258.

The legislature may not make the validity of a public general statute dependent upon its approval by a majority of the voters of the state under a referendum; hence the Soldiers' Bonus Act, act 1922, ch. 448, is void. The legislature may not delegate its law-making power. The general assembly of Maryland has the exclusive power of making laws, subject to certain veto powers of the Governor. Other constitutional questions not passed upon. *Brawner v. Supervisors*, 141 Md. 600.

This section is not violated by amending a bill as follows: "Amend by striking out all after the words A Bill and insert in lieu thereof the following." *Thrift v. Towers*, 127 Md. 58.

¹ Thus amended by the act of 1912, ch. 497, ratified November 4, 1913.