

Which were read the second time, and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

Senate bill entitled an Act in relation to the adoption of minor children.

With the following proposed amendments :

AMENDMENTS PROPOSED.

Strike out all after the word a bill," and insert in lieu thereof, the following ;

"Entitled" to amend Article 16, of the Code of Public General Laws, title "Chancery," sub-title "Infants," by adding six additional sections thereto, to come in after section 62, and to be numbered respectively 62 A, 62 B, 62 C, 62 D, 62 E and 62 F.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That six additional sections be added to Article 16, of the Code of Public General Laws, title "Chancery," sub-title "Infants," to come in after section 62, to read as follows :

62 A. The several Chancery Courts of this State, upon the application of any person residing in this city or county where such application is made, shall have power to pass a decree declaring any minor child, the adopted child of the petitioner, upon such reasonable notice to the parent or parents, guardian or guardians of such child, if any there be, by summons, order of publication or otherwise, as the court may order to be given; provided, that the court passing the decree shall become satisfied upon careful investigation, that the best interests and welfare of such child will be thereby promoted; and provided further, that the child, if of sufficient intelligence and capacity to give an understanding assent shall so desire.

62 B. The husband and wife may file a petition jointly, praying the court to decree the adoption by them jointly of any child, but no decree of adoption shall pass where the petitioner is a married person, unless it be shown that the husband or wife of the petitioner consents to the adoption, or is hopelessly insane, or that the parties are living apart under such circumstances as would entitle the petitioner to a divorce.

62 C. The effect of such decree of adoption shall be to entitle the child so adopted to the same rights of in-