

except that the provisions therein contained shall have immediate effect and operation so far as they are applicable to the Bank of Howard county.

CHAPTER 450.

AN ACT declaratory of the law concerning contempts of Court. Passed May 31, 1853.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the power of the several courts of the State of Maryland to issue attachments and inflict summary punishments for contempts of court shall not be construed to extend to any cases except the misbehaviour of any person or persons in the presence of the said courts, or so near thereto as to obstruct the administration of justice, the misbehaviour of any of the officers of the said courts in their official transaction, and the disobedience or resistance, by any officer of the said courts, party, juror, witness, or any other person or persons, to any lawful writ, process, order, rule, decree or command of the said courts. Construction of act.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted,* That if any person or persons shall corruptly, or by threats or force, endeavor to influence, intimidate or impede any juror, witness or officer in any court of this State, in the discharge of his duty, or shall corruptly, or by threats or force, obstruct or impede, or endeavor to obstruct or impede the due administration of justice therein, every person or persons so offending shall be liable to be prosecuted therefor by indictment, and shall on conviction thereof be punished by fine, not exceeding five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment not exceeding three months, or both, according to the nature and aggravation of the offence. Liable to prosecution.