

Mr. Griffith submitted the following petition.

Which was read and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

And ordered to be printed on the Journal.

*To the Senate and House of Delegates*

*of the State of Maryland:*

WHEREAS, We the undersigned citizens and tax-payers of Montgomery county, feeling the oppression and crushing weight of taxation now resting upon the shoulders of the people of the State at large, and which has been brought upon us by the large increase of officials created and provided for by the Constitution of 1867, and the Laws in pursuance thereof; but in no branch of the public service does this alarming increase of State expenditure show itself more than in the expenses of the Judiciary, as proof of it: In 1864, the last year of the working of the old Constitution of 1851, the whole cost of the Judiciary of the State under the one Judge system was \$34,482.42, whilst in 1869, the second year under the operation of the present Constitution of 1867, the cost of the Judiciary had run up to \$97,180.67. Showing an increase in the annual expenses of that one department alone of over \$60,000 a year, which is shown by the several Comptroller's reports.

We, your petitioners, respectfully claim the right secured to us by the 13th Article of the Bill of Rights, and ever to be regarded as one of the fundamental principles of all Republican or Democratic Government, the right of petition for a redress of grievances.

We would, therefore, pray your Honorable Bodies to provide by bill or otherwise, as an amendment or amendments, to the present Constitution of the State, restoring the old Judiciary or one Judge system of 1851, with all of its wise and economical provisions in lieu of the present cumbrous and costly one.

The amendment or amendments as prayed for by your petitioners to be submitted to the people of the State at the next general election for their adoption or rejection, as provided for by the 14th Article of the Constitution.

All of which is most respectfully submitted for your earnest consideration.

C. W. LANSDALE,  
H. L. OFFUTT,  
JOHN M. C. WILLIAMS,  
and others.

Mr. Waters, of Carroll, presented the petition of Lloyd R. Duvall, Gustavus Owings, Basil Hood and 45 other citizens