

CHAPTER 768.

AN ACT to provide for restraining married women from pledging the credit of their husbands and to prohibit tradesmen and others from making claims or maintaining actions against husbands upon purchases and contracts made by their wives, and to provide a penalty for making such claims and instituting or prosecuting such actions in instances where such married women are being reasonably supplied by their husbands with necessaries or the means to purchase them.

Preamble.

WHEREAS, Many married men who are in the habit of supplying their wives with all reasonable necessaries, or adequate funds to purchase the same, are nevertheless, in consequence of the extravagance of their wives, subjected to annoyance, mortification and losses by actions and claims against them by tradesmen and others, which they are compelled to submit to in order to avoid public exposure of their private affairs; now, therefore, to provide a means for remedying said abuses,

Apply to any court of equity for protection.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That any married man who shall think that the pledging of his credit by his wife for necessaries is being abused, may apply by petition to any court of equity in the city of Baltimore, or in the county in which he resides, setting forth the facts upon which he relies, and praying that an order may be passed prohibiting his wife from pledging his credit. And thereupon a summons shall be issued for his wife, requiring her to answer the petition within such time as the court may fix; and if, upon the service of said summons and the expiration of said time and proof taken, the court shall be satisfied that the petitioner is supplying his wife with all necessaries to which she is entitled, or with funds reasonably sufficient to purchase them, having regard to her station and the means of the petitioner, and that the pledging of the petitioner's credit is being abused by his wife, the said Court shall pass an order as prayed in said petition, and notice of the passage of said order given by the petitioner in writing to any tradesman or other person shall be sufficient to prevent such tradesman or