

CHAPTER 80.

AN ACT to amend the law relating to indictments, by adding to the thirtieth article of the Code of Public General Law the following sections relating to indictments for forging or uttering forged instruments, and for false pretences, and to the description of instruments in any indictment, so as to promote the ends of justice that cases may be tried on their merits. Passed Feb. 26, 1862.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the following sections be added to the thirtieth Article of the Code of Public General Law, relating to indictments. It shall be sufficient in any indictment for forging, uttering, disposing of, putting off or passing any instrument whatsoever, or for obtaining any property by false pretences, to allege that the defendant did the act with intent to defraud, without alleging the intent of the defendant to be to defraud any particular person, and on the trial of any of the offences in this section mentioned it shall not be necessary to prove an intent on the part of the defendant to defraud any particular person, but it shall be sufficient to prove that the defendant did the act charged with an intent to defraud. In any indictment for forging, altering, putting off, passing, stealing, embezzling, destroying, or for obtaining by false pretences any instrument it shall be sufficient to describe such instrument by any name or designation by which the same may be usually known or by the purport thereof, without setting out a copy or *fac simile* thereof, or otherwise describing the same. In all other cases, whenever it shall be necessary to make any averment in any indictment as to any instrument, whether the same consists wholly or in part of writing, print or figures, it shall be sufficient to describe such instrument by any name or designation by which the same may be usually known or by the purport thereof, without setting out any copy or *fac simile* of the whole or any part thereof; *provided*, that nothing herein contained shall apply to offences committed before the passage of this act. Indictments; false pretences; forgery, &c.
Proviso.