

C H A P.
LXIX.

whatever, nor entitled to vote at any election, for the seven years next ensuing: The respective branches of the common-council shall choose their own officers, and settle their rules of proceeding, shall be judges of the elections, returns and qualifications, of their members, and possess all powers requisite to investigate and determine on all questions respecting the same: Each branch shall have an equal right to originate any ordinance, resolution or vote, or propose amendments to any ordinance, resolution or vote, or to negative those sent from the other branch: Two thirds of each branch shall constitute a quorum to do business, but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day: Neither branch, during the session, shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other place than that in which the two branches shall be sitting: Each branch may compel the attendance of absent members, in such manner and under such penalties as each may provide, may punish its members for disorderly behaviour, and, with the concurrence of two thirds, expel a member: Every ordinance, resolution or vote, passed or assented to by both branches, (except on a question of adjournment,) shall, before it becomes a law, be sent to the mayor; if he approve, he shall sign it, but if not, he shall return it, with his objections, to that branch in which it originated, who shall enter the objections at large on their journal, and proceed to reconsider it; if, after such reconsideration, two thirds of the whole number of members composing that branch shall agree to pass the ordinance, resolution or vote, it shall be sent, together with the objections, to the other branch, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two thirds of the whole number of members of that branch, it shall become a law, but in all such cases the votes of both branches shall be determined by yeas and nays, and the names of the persons voting entered on the journal of each branch respectively; if any ordinance, resolution or vote, shall not be returned by the mayor within five days (Sunday excepted,) after it shall have been presented to him, the same shall be a law, in like manner as if he had signed it, unless the common-council, by their adjournment, prevent its return, in which case it shall not be a law: The common-council shall meet once every year, but the mayor may summon them to meet whenever it appears to him that the public good of the city requires their deliberations; and in case of disagreement between them with respect, to the time of adjournment, he may adjourn them to such time as he may think proper: Every member of the common-council, mayor, recorder or elector, who shall lose his residency, or be incapacitated by indisposition, shall be considered as having vacated his office or appointment; whereupon his place shall be filled by a new election; and the common-council shall declare, by law, what absence or indisposition constitutes forfeiture of office, and the mode of determining the same: The common-council shall have power to pass all ordinances necessary to the good order and police of the city; to preserve the health of the city, prevent and remove nuisances, and prevent the introduction of contagious diseases; to establish nightwatches or patrols, and erect lamps; to regulate the mode for the recovery of debts not exceeding twenty dollars; to establish new streets, lanes and alleys, with the consent of the proprietors of the ground, and to alter and straighten streets, lanes or alleys, with the consent of the proprietors of the lots or houses adjoining such streets, lanes or alleys; to provide for a general survey of the city; to ascertain, if necessary, the boundaries and location of the streets, lots, lanes and alleys thereof; to provide for the preservation of the navigation of the basin, and Patapsco river within the limits of the city and precincts, for cleaning and deepening the basin and docks, fixing the rates of wharfage, and regulating the station, anchoring and mooring, of vessels; but no tax shall be laid on the city or precincts for cleaning and deepening the basin and docks; to provide for apprenticing all children who are likely to become a burthen and injury to society, by being left unapprenticed, and all others with the consent of their parents or guardians, but no male shall be bound beyond the age of twenty-one, nor female beyond the age of sixteen years; to provide for licensing and regulating auctions after the first day of January, in the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety-nine, licensing and regulating brokers, licensing hackney-coaches, or other carriages, and sedan chairs, kept for hire within the bounds of the corporation, watermen, draymen, carters, waggoners and porters, to fix their
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