

SEC. 15. No book or other printed matter not appertaining to the business of the session shall be purchased or subscribed for, for the use of the members of the General Assembly or be distributed among them, at the public expense.

Books not to be purchased.

SEC. 16. No Senator or Delegate, after qualifying as such, notwithstanding he may thereafter resign, shall, during the whole period of time for which he was elected, be eligible to any office which shall have been created, or the salary or profits of which shall have been increased during such term, or shall, during said whole period of time, be appointed to any civil office by the Executive or General Assembly.

Disqualifications to hold certain offices.

SEC. 17. No Senator or Delegate shall be liable in any civil action or criminal prosecution whatever, for words spoken in debate.

Exemption for words in debate.

SEC. 18. Each House shall be judge of the qualifications and elections of its members, subject to the laws of the State; shall appoint its own officers, determine the rules of its own proceedings, punish a member for disorderly or disrespectful behaviour, and with the consent of two-thirds of its whole number of members elected, expel a member; but no member shall be expelled a second time for the same offence.

Powers in each House.

SEC. 19. A majority of the whole number of members elected to each House, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and compel the attendance of absent members, in such manner and under such penalties, as each House may prescribe.

Quorum.

SEC. 20. The doors of each House and of the committees of the whole shall be open, except when the business is such as ought to be kept secret.

Sessions to be open.

SEC. 21. Each House shall keep a journal of its proceedings, and cause the same to be published. The yeas and nays of members on any question shall, at the call of any five of them in the House of Delegates, or one in the Senate, be entered on the journal.

Journals to be published.
1853, ch. 36.