

*Charges.*

SECT. 123.—Charges shall be preferred by officers authorized to order courts martial, and may be preferred to such officers by any other person, upon the commission of any such crime or offence, or upon the occurrence of any such violation or neglect of duty, or as soon as the same shall become known.

SECT. 124.—If any officer to whom charges are preferred shall disapprove the same, he shall endorse upon the charges his reasons for such disapproval, and, if thereto requested by the complainant, forward the same, without delay, to the commander above him, (in the case of an independent company to the district commandant, and in the case of a district commandant, to the commander-in-chief,) who may, if in his judgment the charges are proper to be tried, return the same to such officer with an endorsement requiring him forthwith to order such court martial as the case may require.

SECT. 125.—All charges shall be in writing, signed by the complainant, and shall clearly specify the offence and the time when, and place where it was committed. The names and residences of witnesses shall be endorsed upon said charges by the complainant.

SECT. 126.—No person shall be tried by court martial for an offence committed more than one year before the complaint, unless his absence or other manifest impediment has prevented a complaint within that time.

*Arrests and Confinement.*

SECT. 127.—Every officer to be tried by court martial shall be put under arrest. If no charges be preferred within eight days, or if no court martial be ordered within thirty days, the officer shall be restored to command.

SECT. 128.—Officers are not to be put in arrest for light offences. For these, the censure of the commanding officer will, in most cases, answer the purposes of discipline.

SECT. 129.—Close confinement is not to be resorted to, unless under circumstances of an aggravated character, and then only by the orders of the commander-in-chief, except when the exigency is, in the opinion of the commanding officer ordering such confinement, too urgent to admit of delay, and in such case, the fact shall be immediately reported to the commander-in-chief.

*Judge Advocate.*

SECT. 130.—The judge advocate shall prosecute in the name of the State of Maryland, but shall so far consider himself as counsel for the prisoner, after the said prisoner shall have made his plea, as to object to any leading question to