

On motion by Mr. Stricker, the following message was read:

By the House of Delegates, Dec. 28, 1826.

Gentlem of the Senate,

The term of service for which the honourable Samuel Smith has been elected as one of the senators to represent the state of Maryland in the senate of the United States, will expire on the third day of March next. As it is incumbent upon the legislature, during the present session, to supply the vacancy which will at that time occur, we propose, with the concurrence of your honourable body, on Wednesday next, at 12 o'clock, to proceed to the discharge of that duty, agreeably to the constitution of the United States, and the provisions of an act of assembly, passed at November session eighteen hundred and nine, entitled, An act to fix the mode of electing senators to represent this state in the senate of the United States.

By order,

John Brewer, Clk.

Mr. Dennis moved that the same lie on the table? Determined in the negative.

Mr. Du Val moved to strike out 'Wednesday next,' to insert 'the second Tuesday in February next.'

Mr. Farquhar called for a division of the question, and it was put on striking out? Determined in the negative.

Mr. Barnes moved to postpone the same until the 2d Tuesday in January next? Resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Peach reported a bill, entitled, An act to repeal certain acts of assembly relative to amerciaments, and to lay a tax on plaintiffs who may institute actions at law in the several county courts of this state.

Mr. Barnes obtained leave to bring in a bill, to be entitled, An act to aid free persons of colour, residents of Maryland, in emigrating to Liberia. Ordered, That Messrs. Barnes, Millard, Sutton, Hardcastle and Janes, report the same.

Mr. Thompson obtained leave to bring in a bill, entitled, An act for the more speedy recovery of small debts out of court in this state. Ordered, That Messrs. Thompson, Saulsbury, Compton, Barnes, Gantt and John Hughes, report the same.

Mr. Buchanan, obtained leave to bring in a bill, entitled, An act to regulate the mode of granting divorces, and of ascertaining the nullity of marriages. Referred to the standing committee on divorces.

On motion by Mr. Hope, Ordered, That the secretaries to the respective boards of trustees of the Belle-Air Academy in Harford county, and of the Hillsborough Academy in Caroline county, forthwith forward to this house statements of the funds of said academies, and in what manner the same have been appropriated since the commencement of the donations to said academies up to the present time, and also what number of poor scholars, if any, have been educated therein, respectively.

Mr. Norris presented a petition from James Tolley Howard, praying his name may be changed to James Walter Tolley; referred to Messrs. Norris, Hope and Sutton.