

# THE CONSTITUTION OF MARYLAND.

9. That the house of delegates shall judge of the elections and qualifications of delegates.

10. That the house of delegates may originate all money bills, propose bills to the senate, or receive those offered by that body, and assent, dissent, or propose amendments; that they may inquire, on the oath of witnesses, into all complaints, grievances, and offences, as the grand inquest of this state, and may commit any person for any crime to the public gaol, there to remain till he be discharged by due course of law; they may expel any member for a great misdemeanor, but not a second time for the same cause; they may examine and pass all accounts of the state, relating either to the collection or expenditure of the revenue, or appoint auditors to state and adjust the same; they may call for all public or official papers and records, and send for persons whom they may judge necessary in the course of their inquiries concerning affairs relating to the public interest, and may direct all office bonds (which shall be made payable to the state,) to be sued for any breach of duty.

11. That the senate may be at full and perfect liberty to exercise their judgment in passing laws, and that they may not be compelled by the house of delegates, either to reject a money bill which the emergency of affairs may require, or to assent to some other act of legislation, in their conscience and judgment injurious to the public welfare, the house of delegates shall not, on any occasion, or under any pretence, annex to or blend with a money bill, any matter, clause or thing, not immediately relating to, and necessary for, the imposing, assessing, levying or applying, the taxes or supplies, to be raised for the support of government, or the current expences of the state; and to prevent altercation about such bills, it is declared, that no bill imposing duties or customs for the mere regulation of commerce, or inflicting fines for the reformation of morals, or to enforce the execution of the laws, by which an incidental revenue may arise, shall be accounted a money bill; but every bill assessing, levying or applying taxes or supplies for the support of government, or the current expences of the state, or appropriating money in the treasury, shall be deemed a money bill.

12. That the house of delegates may punish, by imprisonment, any person who shall be guilty of a contempt in their view, by any disorderly or riotous behaviour, or by threats to, or abuse of, their members, or by any obstruction to their proceedings; they may also punish, by imprisonment, any person who shall be guilty of a breach of privilege, by arresting on civil process, or by assaulting, any of their members, during their sitting, or on their way to or return from the house of delegates, or by any assault or obstruction to their officers, in the execution of any order or process, or by assaulting or obstructing any witness, or any other person, attending on, or on their way to or from, the house, or by rescuing any person committed by the house; and the senate may exercise the same power, in similar cases.

13. That the treasurers (one for the western and another for the eastern shore) and the commissioners of the loan-office, may be appointed by the house of delegates during their pleasure, and in case of refusal, death, resignations, disqualification, or removal out of the state, of any of the said commissioners or treasurers, in the recess of the general assembly, the governor, with the advice of the council, may appoint and commission a fit and proper person to such vacant office, to hold the same until the meeting of the next general assembly.

14. That the senate be chosen in the following manner: All persons, qualified as aforesaid to vote for county delegates, shall, on the first Monday of September, 1781, and on the same day in every fifth year for ever thereafter, elect, *viva voce*, by a majority of votes, two persons for their respective counties, qualified as aforesaid to be elected county delegates, to be electors of the senate; (a) and the sheriff of each county, or in case of sickness, his deputy, (summoning two justices of the county, who are required to attend for the preservation of the peace,) shall hold and be judge of the said election, and make return thereof as aforesaid: And all persons qualified as aforesaid to vote for delegates for the city of Annapolis and Baltimore-town, shall, on the same first Monday of September, 1781, and on the same day in every fifth year for ever thereafter, elect, *viva voce*, by a majority of votes, one person for the said city and town respectively, qualified as aforesaid to be elected a delegate for the said city and town respectively; the said election to be held in the same manner as the election of delegates for the said city and town; (b) the right to elect the said elector with respect to Baltimore-town to continue as long as the right to elect delegates for the said town.

15. That the said electors of the senate meet at the city of Annapolis, or such other place as shall be appointed for convening the legislature, on the third Monday in September, 1781, and on the same day in every fifth year for ever thereafter, and they, or any twenty-four of them, so met, shall proceed to elect, by ballot, either out of their own body, or the people at large, fifteen senators, (nine of whom to be residents on the western, and six to be residents on the eastern shore) men of the most wisdom, experience and virtue, above twenty-five years of age, residents of the state above three whole years next preceding the election, and having therein real and personal property above the value of one thousand pounds current money.

16. That

(a) See the note to section 2.

(b) See the note to section 6.