

and August, in Cecil county first Monday in March and first Monday in August, in Kent county third Monday in March and second Monday in October, in Queen-Anne's county first Monday in May and fourth Monday in October, in Talbot county fourth Monday in May and second Monday in November, in Anne-Arundel county third Mondays in April and September, in Baltimore county first Mondays in April and September, in Harford county third Mondays in March and August, in Caroline county (a) second Mondays in March and October, in Dorchester county (b) fourth Mondays in March and October, in Somerset county second Mondays in May and November, in Worcester county second Mondays in February and August, in Washington county first Monday in April and first Monday in January, (c) in Frederick county third Monday in March and third Monday in November, in Montgomery county first Mondays in March and November, and in Allegany county third Monday in April and third Monday in October.

- (a) By 1797, ch. 19, changed to the first Monday in March.
- (b) By 1797, ch. 19, changed to the third Monday in March.
- (c) By 1798, ch. 81, the month of December is substituted for January.

IV. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the fourth section of an act, entitled, An act for the better administration of justice in the several counties of this state, passed at November session, seventeen hundred and ninety, (d) be and the same is hereby continued, and shall be in force during the continuance of this act.

Section continued.

(d) Seventeen hundred and ninety, chapter 33, section 4. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the governor and the council be authorized and requested to appoint and commission, for each of the said districts, one person of integrity and experience, and sound legal knowledge, who shall reside in the district for which he is appointed, (who shall be styled in the commission Chief Justice of the county courts in such district,) and to appoint and commission, in each of the counties of this state, two persons of integrity, experience and knowledge, residents of the county for which they were appointed, (who shall be styled in the commission Associate Justices of the county court of the county for which they shall be appointed;) and the said justices shall hold their commission during good behaviour, and may be removed for misbehaviour in the same manner as the chancellor and the judges may be removed agreeably to the constitution of this state, and not otherwise.

V. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the county courts in each district, shall be composed of the chief justice of the district in which each county shall be, and of two associate justices appointed for such counties respectively; and that the said county court or the chief justice alone, or the two associate justices, shall have, possess and execute, the same power, jurisdiction and duties, now vested in or required of the county courts of this state, except in the cases hereafter excepted, and an appeal or writ of error shall lie to the general court, in the same manner, and under the same regulations, as is now or shall hereafter be allowed by law from the county courts to the general court; and any one of the said associate justices may hold and adjourn the said court, and impanel and charge the grand jury, and direct process to issue on any presentment or indictment found in the said court, or on any petition or complaint exhibited to the said court, and he may direct subpoenas to issue for witnesses to attend the said court, or attachments of contempt to issue against witnesses or jurors for non-attendance, and he may direct any witness to be sworn to the grand jury, and receive any presentment or indictment from the grand jury, and take recognizances for the appearance of witnesses, or any person presented or indicted, and he may commit any person presented or indicted for want of security, and he may direct judgments to be entered on confession, or *non sum informatus*, and on default or amerancements of any sheriff or coroner, and may direct commitments to be entered against persons brought in on executions, and may take special bail in any cause existing, or that may exist, in the court of which he is associate, and may also, in court sitting, accept the surrender by the principal of himself in discharge of his bail, and by the bail of the principal in discharge of himself, and take new bail, or commit for want of bail, and take recognizances for the appearance and security of any person or persons who have filed or may file petitions for freedom.

Of whom the courts are to be composed, &c.

VI. AND BE IT ENACTED, That all acknowledgments of deeds hereafter made for the conveyance of land, before any chief justice of a district, within his district, or any associate justice, within his county, shall be as good and valid in law as if the same was made before any judge of the general court, or before two justices of the peace, any law, usage or custom, to the contrary notwithstanding.

Acknowledgments good, &c.

VII. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the said courts shall have power, in the trial of actions of law, on motion made at the first court after the appearance court, supported by affidavit, that the same is not intended for delay, and due notice thereof being given, to require the parties to produce copies, certified by a justice of the peace, of all such parts of all books or writings in their possession or power as contain evidence pertinent to the issue, or to answer any bill for discovery only which may be filed by the second court after the appearance court, in cases and under circumstances where

Courts to require copies, &c.