

C H A P.
LXIV.

Chancellor, on
application, to
direct notice to
be given, &c.

II. BE IT ENACTED, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That on application of either of the said debtors to the chancellor, by petition in writing, offering to deliver to the use of his creditors all his property, real, personal or mixed, to which he is any way entitled, a schedule whereof, (on oath or affirmation, as the case may require,) together with a list of the creditors of the person so applying, on oath or affirmation, as far as he can ascertain them, shall be annexed to such petition, the chancellor shall direct personal notice of such application to be given to the creditors, or to as many of them as can be served therewith, or their agents or attorneys, or direct notice of such application to be inserted in the public news-papers for such time as he may think proper, which, in case of there being a creditor or creditors beyond sea, shall not be less than six months, and on their appearance, or neglect to appear on notice, at the time or times and place appointed; the chancellor shall administer to the petitioning debtor the following oath, or affirmation, as the case may require: "I, A. B. do swear, or solemnly, sincerely and truly declare and affirm, that I will deliver up, convey and transfer, to my creditors, in such manner as the chancellor shall direct, all my property that I have or claim any title to or interest in, at this time, and all debts, rights and claims, which I have, or am any way entitled to, in possession, remainder or reversion, and that I have not, directly or indirectly, at any time, sold, conveyed, lessened or disposed of, for the use or benefit of any person or persons, or intrusted, any part of my money, or other property, debts, rights or claims, thereby to defraud my creditors, or any of them, or to secure the same to receive or expect any profit, benefit or advantage thereby;" and the chancellor shall thereupon name such person as a majority of the creditors in value, their agents or attorneys, then present, shall recommend, to be a trustee for the benefit of the creditors of the petitioning debtor, or in case of the non-attendance of the creditors, or of their not making a recommendation, the chancellor shall name such person as he shall think proper to be a trustee as aforesaid.

No person to
be entitled to
the benefit of
this act but a
citizen, &c.

III. AND BE IT ENACTED, That no person herein before mentioned shall be entitled to the benefit of any of the provisions of this act, unless the chancellor shall be satisfied, by competent testimony, that he is, and at the time of the passing of this act was, a citizen of the United States, and of this state, and unless, at the time of presenting his petition as aforesaid, he shall produce to the chancellor the assent, in writing, of so many of his creditors as have due to them the amount of two thirds of the debts due by him at the time of the passing of this act; provided, that foreign creditors not residing in the United States, and not having agents or attorneys residing therein, duly empowered to act in their behalf, shall not be considered within the intent and meaning of this clause; and provided also, that the chancellor may, without the assent of the creditors as aforesaid, from time to time, order to be discharged from custody, any of the said petitioners who may be in actual confinement in virtue of any process issued, or that may be issued, in pursuance of any debt at this time due and owing by him, which discharge is hereby declared to be a release only of the person of such debtor, but not of his property, unless the assent in writing of two thirds in value of the creditors as aforesaid be obtained.

Trustee to give
bond, &c.

IV. AND BE IT ENACTED, That before such trustee proceeds to act, he shall give bond for the faithful performance of his duty, to such person, in trust for the creditors of said petitioning debtor, and in such penalty, as the chancellor shall direct, which shall be recorded in the office of the register of the court of chancery, and a copy thereof, certified under the hand of the said register, shall be good evidence in any court of law or equity of this state; and if any trustee, appointed by virtue of this act, shall refuse to act, or die, or neglect to give bond as aforesaid in a reasonable time, to be judged of by the chancellor, or be removed by the chancellor for misbehaviour, he shall appoint such other person as he shall think proper in his place, who shall give bond as aforesaid, and on giving such bond, (in case the said debtor had conveyed his property to the former trustee,) he shall immediately be vested with all the property of every kind, and all the debts, rights and credits, of the said debtor, as completely as the former trustee was vested with the same.

On executing a
deed, debtor to
be discharged,
&c.

V. AND BE IT ENACTED, That upon the said petitioning debtor's executing and acknowledging a deed to the trustee to be appointed as aforesaid, conveying all his property, real, personal and mixed, and all debts, rights and claims, agreeably to the oath, or affirmation, of such debtor as aforesaid, and on his delivery to the said trustee of all his said property which he shall have in possession, and of his books, papers, and evidences of debts of every kind, and the said trustee's certifying the same, in writing, to the chancellor, it shall be lawful for the chancellor to order that the said debtor shall be discharged from all debts, covenants, contracts, promises and agreements, due from, or owing or contracted by him, before the date of the said deed, and by virtue of such order the said debtor shall be discharged as aforesaid; provided, that no person who has been guilty of a breach of the laws, and hath been fined or is liable to be fined for such breach, shall be discharged from the payment of any fine incurred for any breach of the laws of this state; and provided, that any property which he shall thereafter acquire by gift, descent, or in his own right by bequest, devise, or in any course of distribution, shall be liable to the payment of the said debt; and provided, that the discharge of such debtor shall not operate so as to discharge any other person from any debt.

May retain his
apparel.

VI. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the chancellor may allow such petitioning debtor to retain the necessary wearing apparel of himself and family.

Trustee may be
directed to sell,
&c.

VII. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the chancellor may direct any trustee to be appointed by virtue of this act, to sell and convey the property conveyed to him by the petitioning debtor, at such time, and on such terms and conditions, as he shall think most for the advantage of the creditors, and the produce thereof, after satisfying all incumbrances and liens, shall be divided among the said creditors, agreeably to their several and respective claims, but no judgment to be rendered after the passage of this act against any of the said debtors who shall take advantage of this act, shall be a lien on his real property, nor shall any process against his real or personal property