

sembly a statement of facts, with his opinion thereon, and what compensation, if any, the said Ferguson is entitled to.

By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

Which said bills and resolutions were severally read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

The bill, entitled, An act to enable the corporation of the city of Annapolis to lay a tax on property within the said city, and the precincts thereof, was read the second time by especial order and will pass.

The clerk of the house of delegates returns the bill, entitled, A further additional supplement to the act, entitled, An act relating to public roads in this state, and to repeal the acts of assembly therein mentioned, thus endorsed; "By the house of delegates, January 20, 1798: Read the first and second time by especial order and will pass with the proposed amendment.

"By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk."

Amendment proposed. Strike out the words "a majority" in the 5th line and insert the words "any five."

Which said amendment was read, agreed to, and the bill ordered to be engrossed.

The clerk of the house of delegates returns the bill, entitled, An act to relinquish the right of this state to the lands therein referred to, thus endorsed; "By the house of delegates, December 30, 1797: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

"By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

"By the house of delegates, January 20, 1798: Read the second time and will pass with the proposed amendment.

"By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk."

Amendment proposed. At the end of the bill add, "Provided always, That nothing herein contained shall in any manner affect or defeat the right (if any) of the informer of any of the said lands as liable to confiscation, in case he shall think proper to prosecute the same, under any of the existing laws of this state, within two years next after the passing of this law; and such informer is hereby empowered, at any time within the said term of two years, to commence a suit or suits in the court of chancery against any of the holders or possessors of the said lands, or any of them, for the recovery of the value of the interest of the said informer, wherein the chancellor, in case the right of such informer be established, may decree either a partition of the said lands, or a sale thereof, or of any part thereof, to satisfy the claim of the said informer, and may make such order in the premises as in justice and equity shall seem right and proper to ascertain the value of the interest aforesaid of such informer."

Which was read.

The following message was prepared, read and agreed to.

BY THE SENATE, JANUARY 20, 1798.

GENTLEMEN,

YOUR amendment to the bill, entitled, An act to relinquish the right of this state to the lands therein referred to, has been taken into consideration by the senate. We are of opinion that the vested rights of informers is sufficiently protected by its provisions, but have no objection to receive your amendment as far as the word "law," inclusive, in the 8th line of your amendment. The residue of your amendment we hope you will recede from. We cannot see any reason to afford any new remedy in favour of those who may have lodged information.

By order,

A. VAN-HORN, clk.

The clerk of the house of delegates returns the paper bills number 38, 40, 41, 42, 43, 45, 46, 54, 60, 63, 67, 74, 75, 85, 86, 87, 88, 92, 93 and 103, severally thus endorsed; "By the house of delegates, January 20, 1798: The engrossed bill whereof this is the original read and assented to.

"By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk."

The clerk of the house of delegates delivers the engrossed bills number 31, 94, 95, 96 and 97, with the paper bills thereof; which engrossed bills were severally thus endorsed; "By the house of delegates, January 19, 1798: Read and assented to.

"By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk."

The bill, entitled, An act to continue the several acts of assembly therein referred to, was read the second time by especial order and will pass with the proposed amendment.

Amendment proposed. In the 4th line, after the word "except" strike out to the end of the clause and insert the following words: "such laws or parts of laws as are repealed by any act or acts passed during this session of assembly."

The senate adjourns until 5 o'clock.

P O S T M E R I D I E M.

The senate met.

The resolution respecting William Ferguson was read the second time and dissented from.

The clerk of the house of delegates delivers to the clerk of the senate a bill, entitled, A supplement to the act to restrain the ill practices of sheriffs, and to direct their conduct respecting runaways, thus endorsed; "By the house of delegates, January 20, 1798: Read the first and second time by especial order and will pass.

"By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk."

Which was read the first and second time by especial order and will not pass.

The resolution respecting John Holkins Stone was read the second time by especial order and dissented from.

The message respecting the amendment to the bill, entitled, An act to relinquish the right of this state to the lands therein referred to, with the said bill and amendment, was sent to the house of delegates by the clerk.

The bill, entitled, An act to enable the corporation of the city of Annapolis to lay a tax on property within the said city, and the precincts thereof, the bill, entitled, An act to continue the several acts of assembly