

“ By the house of delegates, December 24, 1799: Read the second time and will pass.

“ By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.”

And the bill, entitled, An act declaring a road leading to a fork of Conowago road in Baltimore county a public highway, thus endorsed; “ By the house of delegates, December 24, 1799:

“ Read the first and second time by especial order and will pass.

“ By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.”

Ordered that the said bills be engrossed.

The resolution in favour of Edward Norwood, the bill, entitled, A supplement to an act, entitled, An act to direct descents, the bill, entitled, An act authorising the levy court of Caroline county to appoint constables in the different towns and villages in said county, the bill, entitled, An act directing the mode of executing conveyances of lots in the city of Washington, sold by David Burnes in his life-time, and for other purposes, and the bill, entitled, An act to regulate elections, were sent to the house of delegates by the clerk.

The senate adjourns until to-morrow morning 10 o'clock.

W E D N E S D A Y, December 25, 1799.

THE senate met. Present the same members as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. Hammond, from the committee to whom the bill, entitled, An act to regulate public ferries, was committed, reported the said bill with certain amendments.

The said bill was then read the second time and passed with the proposed amendments.

Amendments proposed. Strike out the first section, and in lieu thereof insert as follows: “ Be it enacted, by the general assembly of Maryland, That the county courts of the several counties within this state shall be and they are hereby authorized and empowered, annually, to grant a licence or licences to any approved person or persons applying for the same, to keep a public ferry across any bays, rivers or other waters, at any place within their county where a public or licensed ferry is now kept, or where a public road is now or shall hereafter be established, to the bank or edge of such water, if the said court shall be of opinion that a public ferry ought to be established, and such licence shall authorize the person to whom the same is granted to keep a public ferry across the bay, river or other water, therein mentioned, to any other public landing or road coming to the other side thereof, and specified in the said licence, and from thence back again; and no such licence shall specify more than two places, one on each side of the water therein mentioned, between which such ferry may be kept, except in cases of ferries across the bay, in which, for the purposes of public convenience and accommodation, and to encourage such expensive undertakings by individuals, a more extensive privilege or authority may be allowed in one licence, at the discretion of the court granting the same; and all ferry licences shall be renewed annually.” Strike out the words “ justices of the several levy” in the ninth line of the second page, and insert “ several county.” Strike out from the word “ their” in the same line to the word “ if” in the tenth line of the second page, both inclusive, and insert “ such time or times, and as often as.” After the word “ securities” in the seventeenth line of the third page insert “ residing in the county where such licence shall be granted.” Strike out the third section, and in lieu thereof insert the following clause: “ And be it enacted, That if the proprietor or proprietors of the land at any place now used as a public ferry, or where a public ferry may hereafter be established or set up according to the provisions of this act, shall refuse or neglect for the space of two months to take out a licence agreeably to this act, or to rent the houses and land commonly used with, or necessary for, such ferry, to some person to be approved of by the said court, who will take out a licence for the same, or be under any disability to take out a licence, or to rent as aforesaid, by reason whereof the same shall be delayed to be done, to the inconvenience of the public, for the space of three months beyond the annual time for granting such ferry licences, in such case the county court of the county in which such land shall lie, shall issue their warrant to the sheriff of their county, to summon twelve respectable disinterested persons, qualified by law to be jurymen, and also the surveyor of the county, to meet on the premises, on a day by him to be appointed, of which due and timely notice shall be given by the said sheriff to the owner or owners, possessor or possessors, of such land; and the said jury shall then and there, upon viewing the place, determine how much land, not exceeding two acres, and not including the dwelling-house, garden, orchard or meadow, of the owner or possessor, or any part thereof, shall be necessary and most convenient to be laid off for the use of such ferry, and the said surveyor, under their direction, shall survey and lay off the same, and make a correct plot and certificate thereof, and shall deliver the same to the said sheriff, to be returned to the next county court; and the said jury shall then and there estimate the value of the said land, in doing which they shall take into consideration all the advantages of its situation for the purposes of keeping a ferry, or pursuing any other business, having first taken an oath, or affirmation, as the case may be, justly and impartially to value the said land; and they shall make an inquest of their proceedings as aforesaid, under their hands and seals, which shall be returned by the said sheriff, with the certificate and plot aforesaid, to the next county court; and if the proprietor of the said land shall think himself aggrieved by the quantity of land laid off, or by the manner of laying off the same, or by the valuation thereof by the said jury, it shall and may be lawful for him or her to apply to the said county court, at any time before the end of the next court to that at which the inquest aforesaid shall be returned, who may, in a summary way, examine the said proceedings, and ratify or correct the same in any of the particulars above mentioned, and shall thereupon order