

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, February 3, 1825.

Gentlemen of the Senate,

It is with regret that we learn you have rejected the bill to limit the number of justices of the peace in the several counties of the state. Believing as we do, that this measure will be productive of important advantages to the state at large, and satisfactory to our fellow citizens, we cannot but flatter ourselves, that your honourable body will reconsider it, and give to it that character you may deem essential, if such amendment be called for in your wisdom.

By order,

JOHN BREWER, Ck.

Mr. Scott delivered the following report: which was read.

The committee to whom was referred a bill, entitled, "An act to empower the judges of Montgomery county court to direct the sale of the lands therein mentioned," beg leave to report, that they have had the same under consideration, and think that it ought not to pass. The committee have come to this conclusion, because they think that the subject matter of the bill is not a proper object of legislation, the general assembly of Maryland being called upon to legislate ex parte upon rights of minors, and in a manner which may result to their disadvantage.

By order,

T. W. LOCKERMAN, Com. Ck.

The bill to empower the judges of Montgomery county court to direct the sale of the lands therein mentioned, was then read a second, and by special order a third time, rejected, and returned to the house of delegates.

Mr. Scott from the committee to whom was referred the supplement to the act to lay out and make public two roads herein mentioned in Cecil county, passed on the 25th day of January 1822, reported, that the committee were of opinion that it ought to pass with an amendment; which amendment was read and assented to. The bill was then read a second time and laid on the table.

The supplement to an act against excessive usury, was read a second time and ordered to be engrossed.

Mr. Cockey from the committee to whom was referred the bill incorporating a company to make a turnpike road leading from the city of Frederick to Harpers Ferry, reported, that the committee had had the same under consideration, and were of opinion that it ought to pass. The bill was then read a second time and laid on the table.

The further supplement to the act respecting the equity jurisdiction of the county courts, was read a second time, amended, and ordered to be engrossed. The said bill having been engrossed, was read a third time, passed, and sent to the house of delegates.

The bill to repeal all such parts of the constitution and form of government of this state, as relate to the division of Frederick county into eleven election districts, and for other purposes, was read a second time and laid on the table.

The bill to prohibit the transportation of absconding slaves to Hayti, or elsewhere, was read a second time and laid on the table.

The bill to prevent geese and swine from going at large in the Village of Denton, in Caroline county, was read a second time and laid on the table.

The bill to incorporate a company to make a turnpike road from the intersection of the Baltimore and Frederick town turnpike road, near the third mile stone on said road, to M^cVille in Baltimore county, was read a third time, passed, and returned to the house of delegates.

On motion, the question was put. Will the senate reconsider the bill to limit the number of justices of the peace in the several counties in this state? Determined in the affirmative. The said bill was then read, rejected, and returned to the house of delegates.

Mr. Bowie offered the following message; which was read, assented to, and sent to the house of delegates.

BY THE SENATE, February 3, 1825.

Gentlemen of the House of Delegates,

We have, at your suggestion, reconsidered the bill to limit the number of justices of the peace, in the several counties of this state, and can see no reason for departing from our former decision.

That evils have arisen from the great number of justices of the peace, dispersed throughout the state, and the utter incompetency of many of them, to discharge the duties of their office, the senate are very willing to admit; and if no sufficient remedy existed, by which these evils could be removed, the senate would feel itself bound to concur in such act of legislation, as would effectually prevent the continuance of this grievance—but in the opinion of the senate, a remedy does already exist, and exists where it properly ought, with the appointing power. There can be no reasonable doubt, that whenever a representation is made to the executive, from the customary source, that the evils intended to be removed by this bill do exist, the proper corrective will immediately be applied. Under this view of the subject, the senate have again negatived the bill.

By order,

WM. KILTY, Ck.

On motion the committee on engrossed bills was enlarged, and Messrs. Scott and Kent added to it.

The bill to amend the constitution and form of government of this state, so as to limit the duration of the sessions of the legislature, was read and referred to the first day of June next.

The clerk of the house of delegates delivered a bill, entitled, An act to alter and amend the constitution so as to allow to the city of Baltimore a representation equal to that of the several counties of this state; which was read the first time and laid on the table.

On motion by Mr. Bowie. Leave was given to bring in a bill, to be entitled, A supplement to the act, entitled, An act to establish a divisional line between Anne Arundel and Calvert counties; and it was ordered, That Messrs. Bowie, Kent and Dickinson, should be a committee to prepare and report the same.

Mr. Bowie from the committee reported the said bill, and it was read the first time and laid on the table.

The senate adjourned until 7 o'clock, P. M.