

They were severally read the second and by special order the third time, passed and returned to the house of delegates.

Mr. Mayer submitted the following report, which was read the first time.

The committee on judicial proceedings to whom was referred the memorial of William and Thomas Adair and others, praying that under the act relating to the importation of passengers, as a substitute for the payment of the assessment mentioned in the act, no bond may be allowed to be received in respect of all the passengers on board of any one ship, respectfully reports:

That the object of the act was to relieve the people of the city of Baltimore and the benevolent societies (especially the German and Hibernian) instituted for the aid of foreigners of a serious charge upon their means from the number of paupers cast upon the community by the arrivals of emigrants from Europe. And a very moderate assessment of one dollar and fifty cents, for each passenger was established payable by the master or agent of the passenger ship toward the formation of a fund which might secure the city and county on account of their charges incurred for the foreign paupers, and enable the benevolent societies referred to by a seasonable dispensation of a portion of these means to relieve the distresses of the emigrant or forward in many instances upon his destination to other places. The creative of the fund was the primary object, and though the law provides that a bond for indemnity to the city against all charges for the individual passenger may be accepted in lieu of his assessment of one dollar and fifty cents, yet it was not to be presumed that that security would thoroughly effect the object of the law since it can afford actual means only after the outlay for the pauper, and possibly after a suit which may be protracted and expensive even beyond the amount claimable on account of the pauper. The bond was specified in the act to apply emphatically to individual cases in which the very capability of giving bond with approved surety would argue that the individual was not likely to become a charge upon the public. The clause, too, was deemed proper, to obviate constitutional objections which however futile, might possibly have interposed to em-