

That every Bill proposed by the House shall be read ~~twice~~ <sup>twice</sup> ~~before~~ <sup>before</sup> it is sent to the Senate, and once after, before it be ~~engaged~~ <sup>engaged</sup>, and between every reading one day shall be intermitted, and that in that Time the Bill shall be laid on the Table for the Perusal of all the Members, unless on very urgent Occasions Mr. Speaker, with the Consent of the House, shall dispense therewith, and then the Bill being read twice at one sitting, shall be as sufficient as if read several Days, when so entered on the Clerk's Journal.

That no Person who has refused or neglected to take the Oath of Allegiance to this State (unless from religious Principles) be permitted to come within the Doors of this House during the Session.

Resolved, That the Hours of sitting during this Session for the Dispatch of Business be from Nine o'Clock in the Morning until One in the Afternoon and from three till six. The Governor communicated to Mr. Speaker sundry Letters from Congress and other Papers; which were severally read and ordered to lie on the Table.

Matthew Tilghman, Esq: from the Senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker a Letter from William Pace, Esq: bearing Date the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 1779 directed to the ~~Senate~~ President of the Senate and the Honourable Speaker of the House of Delegates: and a Petition of the Contes of Prince George's County which were severally read and ordered to lie on the Table.

Joseph Nicholson Esq: from the Senate delivers to Mr. Speaker a Message from the Governor and Council, directed to the ~~Senate~~ President of the Senate of the State of Maryland, together with a Copy of Instructions intended for Commodore Graison; which were read

He also delivers to Mr. Speaker a petition of James Bartlett, of Talbot County, thus endorsed; "By the Senate, March 9<sup>th</sup> 1779: Read and referred to the Consideration of the House of Delegates

By Order ~~of the Senate~~ <sup>of the Senate</sup>

which was read the first Time and ordered to lie on the Table

And a Petition of Thomas Lightfoot thus endorsed "By the Senate March 9<sup>th</sup> 1779; Read and referred to the Consideration of the House of Delegates. By Order ~~of the Senate~~ <sup>of the Senate</sup>

Adjourned till 3 o'Clock

Post meridien

The House met. Mr. Dent and Mr. Fischer appeared in the House.

The Petition of Thomas Lightfoot was read the first Time and ordered to lie on the Table

On Motion, Resolved, That the whole House be divided into a Number of Committees, for the immediate Dispatch and Preparation of Business, viz. No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. That the Business usually done heretofore by the Committee of Election and Privileges be referred to one of those Committees. That the Business usually done heretofore by the Committee of Grievances and Courts of Justice be referred to one other of those Committees. That the Business usually done heretofore by the Committee of Claims be referred to one other of those Committees. And other Business to other Committees as it may arise

Appointed upon No. 1. Mr. Hale, Mr. Deye, Mr. T. Marshall, Mr. Ligon, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Weilder, Mr. Cranford