

Freedom of debate. SEC. 18. No Senator or Delegate shall be liable in any civil action or criminal prosecution whatever for words spoken in debate.

Powers of each House. SEC. 19. Each House shall be judge of the qualifications and elections of its members, as prescribed by the Constitution and laws of the State; shall appoint its own officers, determine the rules of its own proceedings, punish a member for disorderly or disrespectful behavior, and with the consent of two-thirds of its whole number of members elected, expel a member; but no member shall be expelled a second time for the same offence.

Covington v. Buffett, 90 Md., 569.

Quorum. SEC. 20. A majority of the whole number of members elected to each House shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and compel the attendance of absent members in such manner and under such penalties as each House may prescribe.

Sessions to be open. SEC. 21. The doors of each House and of the Committee of the Whole shall be open, except when the business is such as ought to be kept secret.

Journals to be published. SEC. 22. Each House shall keep a Journal of its proceedings, and cause the same to be published. The yeas and nays of members on any question shall, at the call of any five of them in the House of Delegates, or one in the Senate, be entered on the Journal.

Disorderly persons. SEC. 23. Each House may punish by imprisonment during the session of the General Assembly, any person not a member, for disrespectful or disorderly behavior in its presence, or for obstructing any of its proceedings, or any of its officers in the execution of their duties; provided, such imprisonment shall not at any time exceed ten days.

Powers of House. SEC. 24. The House of Delegates may inquire, on the oath of witness, into the complaints, grievances and offences, as the grand inquest of the State, and may commit any person for any crime to the public jail, there to remain until discharged by due course of law. They may examine and pass all accounts of the State, relating either to the collection or expenditure of the revenue, and appoint auditors to state and adjust the same. They may call for all public or official papers and records, and send for persons whom they may judge necessary, in the course of their inquiries, concerning affairs relating to the public interest, and may direct all office bonds which shall be made payable to the State to be sued for any breach thereof; and with the view to the more

Grand inquest.

May call for persons and papers.