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Instructions to the Convention Delegates

Maryland, 26 May 1787

*Act Electing and Empowering Delegates, 26 May 1787*¹

An ACT for the appointment of, and conferring powers in, deputies from this state to the federal convention.

Be it enacted, *by the general assembly of Maryland*, That the honourable James McHenry, Daniel of Saint Thomas Jenifer, Daniel Carroll, John Francis Mercer, and Luther Martin, Esquires, be appointed and authorised, on behalf of this state, to meet such deputies as may be appointed and authorised by any other of the United States to assemble in convention at Philadelphia, for the purpose of revising the federal system, and to join with them in considering such alterations, and further provisions, as may be necessary to render the federal constitution adequate to the exigencies of the union, and in reporting such an act for that purpose to the United States in congress assembled, as, when agreed to by them, and duly confirmed by the several states, will effectually provide for the same; and the said deputies, or such of them as shall attend the said convention, shall have full power to represent this state for the purposes aforesaid; and the said deputies are hereby directed to report the proceedings of the said convention, and any act agreed to therein, to the next session of the general assembly of this state.

1. On 20 April the House proposed that each house, acting separately, should elect five delegates. The Senate agreed the next day. The House nominated John Henry, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, Governor William Smallwood, Robert Hanson Harrison, James McHenry, Thomas Sim Lee, Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, George Gale, Alexander C. Hanson, and Robert Goldsborough. The Senate nominated Thomas Johnson, William Paca, Samuel Chase, and Thomas Stone. Henry, Gale, Paca, Johnson, and Chase did not wish to serve and “their names were struck out.” The legislature then elected Harrison, Carroll, Stone, McHenry, and Lee on 23 April.

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