

# By the House of Delegates, December 25, 1808.

ORDERED, That the Bill, entitled, *An Act to abolish all such parts of the Constitution and Form of Government as relate to the time and manner of electing the Senate, and the mode of filling up vacancies in that Body, be published with the Votes and Proceedings of this House for the information of the People.*

By Order,

J. BREWER, Clk.

*An Act to abolish all such parts of the Constitution and Form of Government as relate to the time and manner of electing the Senate, and the mode of filling up vacancies in that Body.*

BE IT ENACTED, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That from and after the first Monday of October, eighteen hundred and ten, the senate of this state shall consist and be composed of twenty members, one to be chosen for the city of Baltimore, one other member for the city of Annapolis and Anne-Arundel county, and one member for each of the other counties of this state; and that the senators shall be elected by ballot, for four years, by the voters of the said several counties and cities qualified to vote for members of the house of delegates, at the same time, and in the same manner, and at the same places, where they shall vote for members of the house of delegates.

II. AND BE IT ENACTED, That immediately after the senate shall be assembled in consequence of the first election, they shall be divided, by lot, into four classes, and the seats of the first class of senators shall be vacated at the expiration of the first year, of the second class at the end of the second year, of the third class at the end of the third year, and of the fourth class at the end of the fourth year, so that one fourth of the whole number of senators may be annually chosen.

III. AND BE IT ENACTED, That no person shall be a senator who shall not have attained the age of twenty-five years, and been a resident of the state four years next before his election, and the last year thereof a resident of the county or city for which he shall be elected, unless he shall have been absent on the public business of the United States or of this state.

IV. AND BE IT ENACTED, That if the seat of any senator shall become vacant by death, resignation, or otherwise, a warrant of election shall issue by the president of the senate for the election of another in his place, in the same manner, and under the same regulations, as warrants of election are issued by the speaker of the house of delegates to supply such vacancies in that body; and any senator who may be elected to fill a vacancy shall hold his seat so long as the person in whose place he is elected might have done if no vacancy had happened.

V. AND BE IT ENACTED, That from and after the first Monday in October, eighteen hundred and ten, the offices and seats of the members of the senate of Maryland, who shall then compose that body, shall cease and be void.

VI. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the legislature may regulate the aforesaid elections of senators, and all things relating to the judges, places, times and manner thereof, and the mode of declaring and returning the said elections, in as full and ample a manner as the legislature by law can regulate all those things which relate to the elections for delegates to the general assembly and sheriffs of the several counties.

VII. AND BE IT ENACTED, That if this act shall be confirmed by the general assembly, after the next election of delegates, in the first session after such new election, as the constitution and form of government directs, that in such case this act, and the alterations and amendment of the constitution and form of government therein contained, shall be taken and considered, and shall constitute and be valid, as a part of the said constitution and form of government, to all intents and purposes, any thing to the contrary notwithstanding.

VIII. AND BE IT ENACTED, That all those parts of the constitution and form of government contrary and repugnant to this act, shall be and are hereby declared to be repealed and abolished on the confirmation hereof.