

deemed incompetent, as a witness, or juror, on account of his religious belief; provided, he believes in the existence of God, and that, under His dispensation, such person will be held morally accountable for his acts, and be rewarded or punished therefor, either in this world, or the world to come.

Art. 37. That no religious test ought ever to be required as a qualification for any office of profit or trust, in this State, other than a declaration of belief in the existence of God; nor shall the legislature prescribe any other oath of office than the oath prescribed by this Constitution.

Art. 38. That every gift, sale or devise of land, to any Minister, Public Teacher or Preacher of the Gospel, as such, or to any Religious Sect, Order or Denomination, or to, or for the support, use or benefit of, or in trust for any Minister, Public Teacher or Preacher of the Gospel, as such, or any Religious Sect, Order or Denomination and every gift, or sale of goods, or chattels, to go in succession, or to take place after the death of the Seller or Donor, to or for such support, use or benefit, and also every devise of goods, or chattels to or for the support or benefit of any Minister, Public Teacher or Preacher of the Gospel, as such, or any Religious Sect, Order or Denomination, without the prior, or subsequent sanction of the Legislature, shall be void; except always, any sale, gift, lease, or devise of any quantity of land, not exceeding five acres, for a church, meeting-house, or other house of worship, or parsonage, or for a burying-ground, which shall be improved, enjoyed, or used only for such purpose; or such sale, gift, lease, or devise, shall be void.

Art. 39. That the manner of administering an oath, or affirmation to any person ought to be such as those of the religious persuasion, profession, or denomination, of which he is a member, generally esteem the most effectual confirmation by the attestation of the Divine Being.

Art. 40. That the liberty of the press ought to be inviolably preserved; that every citizen of the State ought to be allowed to speak, write and publish his sentiments on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of that privilege.

Art. 41. That monopolies are odious, contrary to the spirit of a free government and the principles of commerce, and ought not to be suffered.