

and exercise in the said district, all and every, the powers, authorities and jurisdictions, which Baltimore county court, sitting for said city, Baltimore city court, and the Chancellor of Maryland, as a judge in equity, now have, hold and exercise therein; and the said judges shall also be judges of the Orphans' court for Baltimore city, and have, hold and exercise, all and every, the powers, authorities and jurisdictions appertaining and belonging to the said Orphans' court within said city; and the number of judges authorized by this section may be increased by law, when such increase shall be required for the dispatch of business in the said district, and such additional judges shall have the same powers, authorities and jurisdictions in all respects as are conferred by this section on the judges directed to be appointed; and the Legislature may establish within the city of Baltimore, a court of limited criminal jurisdiction for the trial of offences not punished capitally, which may be committed in the said city; define its powers and prescribe the number, tenure, mode of appointment, and compensation of the judges thereof, which shall be paid by the city of Baltimore.

Sec. 8. The Judges of the District Court shall respectively hold at least two terms in the city of Baltimore, and in each county comprising the judicial district as courts of law, at least two terms, for the transaction of Equity business within an intermediate day for the return of process: and at least four sessions of the Orphans' court in each county; or oftener, if required by law.

Sec. 9. The General Assembly may, by law, not inconsistent with this Constitution, establish and define the jurisdiction of the courts of this State, prescribe rules of practice, and the course of business therein; and determine the number of terms of said courts, and the time and place of holding the same; but no law shall be passed to confer original jurisdiction in any case whatever, on the court of Appeals, or to require said court to sit elsewhere than at the seat of government; or to give Justices of the Peace jurisdiction in any case, when the matter or thing in controversy exceeds one hundred dollars in value; and all laws regulating and determining the jurisdiction of the Courts or Justices of the Peace; and for the administration of justice, shall, as far as practicable, be uniform throughout this State.

Sec. 10. The judges of the several Judicial Districts shall be citizens of the United States, and shall have resided five years in this State, and two years in the Judicial District for which they may be respectively appointed, next before the time of appointment, and shall reside therein while they continue to act as judges; they shall be selected from among those who having the other qualifications herein prescribed, are most distinguished for integrity, wisdom and sound legal knowledge, and appointed by the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and shall hold their offices during good behavior, removable for misbehavior on conviction in a court of law, or shall be removed by the Governor, upon the address of the General Assembly, provided that two-thirds of the members of each

House shall concur in such address; and the said judges shall each receive a salary of twenty-five hundred dollars per annum, and the same shall not be diminished during the time of their continuance in office; and no judge of any court in this State who has a salary fixed by law shall receive any perquisite, fee or reward in addition thereto, for the performance of any judicial duty.

Sec. 11. If from sickness or any other unavoidable cause, any of the district judges shall be unable to hold the regular term of his court, his place may be supplied by a judge from another district to be selected by the Governor, or by a person of integrity and sound legal knowledge, to be appointed by the Governor as may be provided by law; and such judge, or the person so appointed, shall have and exercise for the time being, the same power, authority and jurisdiction, as the judge whose place is thus supplied, and shall receive such compensation as may be provided by law; and if any district judge shall be interested in any cause pending in any court of which he is judge, he shall not sit in the same, but upon a suggestion in writing of the interest of the judge, verified by affidavit, the said cause shall be transferred to some county of an adjoining judicial district, to be heard and determined, or the same proceedings may be had as are provided for in the case of the sickness of a judge; and the Legislature shall provide rules to carry this section into effect.

Sec. 12. No suit shall be commenced in, or removed from any court to the court of chancery in this State, after official notice shall have been given of the adoption of this Constitution by the people of this State; but all causes which may be pending in the said court at the time of the said notice shall be proceeded with in the said court, and determined according to the usual course of business therein; provided the same can be done in five years from the time aforesaid; and at the expiration of five years from the time of the giving of the said notice, the said court and the office of Chancellor, shall be, and hereby are abolished. If a vacancy shall occur within the period aforesaid, in office of Chancellor, or of Register in Chancery, successors to them respectively shall be appointed as now provided for, to serve for the unexpired portion of said term, who shall have, and exercise the powers, authorities and jurisdiction, and perform the duties, and receive the salary, fees and emoluments respectively appertaining to said offices. If at the end of the said term of five years, any cause or business shall remain in said court unfinished, the General Assembly shall provide a method for the final determination thereof; and also for the disposition and safe keeping of the records of the said court.

Sec. 13. There shall be one register of wills, and one clerk of the district court, in each county of this State and the city of Baltimore, who shall be citizens of the United States, and shall have resided in the State five years, and in the county in which he may be voted for two years, before the election, and shall be elected by a plurality of the qualified voters of the county or city, and shall perform the duties and