

Limit of sessions.

Compensation.

Mileage.

Extra sessions.

SEC. 15. The General Assembly may continue its session so long as in its judgment the public interest may require, for a period not longer than ninety days; and each member thereof shall receive a compensation of five dollars per diem for every day he shall attend the session, but not for such days as he may be absent, unless absent on account of sickness or by leave of the House of which he is a member; and he shall also receive such mileage as may be allowed by law, not exceeding twenty cents per mile; and the presiding officer of each House shall receive an additional compensation of three dollars per day. When the General Assembly shall be convened by Proclamation of the Governor, the session shall not continue longer than thirty days, and in such case the compensation shall be the same as herein prescribed.

Books not to be purchased.

SEC. 16. No book, or other printed matter, not appertaining to the business of the session, shall be purchased or subscribed for, for the use of the members of the General Assembly, or be distributed among them, at the public expense.

Disqualifications.

SEC. 17. No Senator or Delegate, after qualifying as such, notwithstanding he may thereafter resign, shall during the whole period of time for which he was elected be eligible to any office which shall have been created, or the salary or profits of which shall have been increased, during such term.

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 vs. 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.