

births, marriages and deaths, and shall pass laws providing for the celebration of marriage between any persons legally competent to contract marriage, and shall provide that any persons prevented by conscientious scruples from being married by any of the existing provisions of law, may be married by any Judge or Clerk of any Court of Record, or any Mayor of any incorporated city in this State.

**Sec. 50.** The rate of interest in this State shall not exceed six per centum per annum, and no higher rate shall be taken or demanded, and the General Assembly shall provide by law, all necessary forfeitures and penalties against usury.

**Sec. 51.** Corporations may be formed under general laws, but shall not be created by special act, except for municipal purposes and in cases where, in the judgment of the General Assembly, the object of the corporation cannot be attained under general laws. All laws and special acts, pursuant to this section, may be altered from time to time, or repealed; *Provided*, nothing herein contained shall be construed to alter, change or amend, in any manner, the section in relation to banks.

**Sec. 52.** The Governor, Comptroller, and Treasurer of the State are hereby authorized, conjointly, or any two of them, to exchange the State's interest as stockholder and creditor in the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company for an equal amount of the bonds or registered debt now owing by the State; and, subject to such regulations and conditions as the General Assembly may from time to time prescribe, to sell the State's interest in the other works of internal

improvement, whether as a stockholder or a creditor; also, the State's interest in any banking corporation, and receive in payment the bonds and registered debt now owing by the State, equal in amount to the price obtained for the State's said interest; *Provided*, that the interest of the State in the Washington Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road be reserved and excepted from sale; and, *Provided further*, that no sale or contract of sale of the State's interest in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, and the Susquehanna and Tide-Water Canal Companies shall go into effect until the same shall be ratified by the ensuing General Assembly.

**Sec. 53.** The General Assembly before authorising the sale of the State's interest in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, and before prescribing regulations and conditions for said sale, shall pass all laws that may be necessary to authorize the Counties of Allegany, Washington, Frederick and Montgomery, or any one of them, to create a debt by the issue of bonds or otherwise, so as to enable them, or any of them, to become the purchasers of said interest.

**Sec. 54.** The General Assembly shall have power to regulate by law, not inconsistent with this Constitution, all matters which relate to the Judges of Election, time, place and manner of holding elections in this State, and of making returns thereof.

**Sec. 55.** The General Assembly shall have power to pass all such laws as may be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the powers vested by this Constitution, in any department or office of the Government, and the duties imposed upon them thereby.