

BALTIMORE CITY.

LOCATED by 1729, ch. 12; July, 1732, ch. 14.

The limits thereof are defined by 1745, ch. 9; 1747, ch. 21; 1753, ch. 20; 1765, ch. 2; 1766, ch. 22; June, 1773, ch. 4; Nov. 1773, 21; 1781, ch. 24; April, 1782, ch. 2; Nov. 1782, ch. 8; 1784, ch. 39; 1816, ch. 209, 218.

CHARTERS.

AN ACT to erect Baltimore Town, in Baltimore County, into a City, and to Incorporate the inhabitants thereof.—1796, ch. 68.

Preamble.

WHEREAS, it is found by experience, that the good order, health, peace and safety of large towns and cities, cannot be preserved, nor the evils and accidents to which they are subject, avoided or remedied, without an internal power, competent to establish a police and regulation, fitted to their particular circumstances, wants and exigencies; therefore,

Baltimore town erected into a city.

SEC. 2. *Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Baltimore town, in Baltimore county, shall be, and is hereby erected into a city, by the name of the CITY OF BALTIMORE, and the inhabitants thereof constituted a body politic and corporate, by the name of the *Mayor and City Council of Baltimore*, and as such shall have perpetual succession, and by their corporate name may sue and be sued, implead and be impleaded, grant, receive, and do all other acts as natural persons, and may purchase and hold real, personal and mixed property, or dispose of the same for the benefit of the said city, and may have and use a city seal, which may be broken or altered at pleasure.

City divided into eight wards.

The city of Baltimore shall be divided into eight wards, each ward to contain as nearly as may be, an equal number of inhabitants; the first division shall be made by seven respectable citizens, or a majority of them, to be appointed by the governor and council; and the corporation of the said city thereafter, from time to time shall cause a correct division of the said city to be made into eight wards, according to the actual number of inhabitants, which divisions shall be repeated as often as the increase or decrease of inhabitants in any ward or wards shall render it necessary, in order to a just representation; and when the inhabitants shall increase to forty thousand, it shall then be divided into fifteen wards, and for any additional increase of inhabitants, one new ward, only, shall be added for every twenty thousand, in order to preserve, as nearly as may be, an equal number of voters in each ward.

A further division of wards, when to be made.

See 1817, ch. 148, sec. 1.

City council to consist of two branches.

SEC. 3. *And be it enacted,* That the council of the city of Baltimore shall consist of two branches, one whereof shall be denominated the first branch, the other the second branch; the first branch shall consist of two members, of the most wise,