

clusive jurisdiction; and the said Court of Common Pleas shall have exclusive jurisdiction in all applications for the benefit of the insolvent laws of Maryland, and the supervision and control of the trustees thereof.

SEC. 29. The Circuit Court of Baltimore City shall have exclusive jurisdiction in equity within the limits of said city, and all such jurisdiction as the present Circuit Court of Baltimore City has; provided, the said court shall not have jurisdiction in applications for the writ of *habeas corpus* in cases of persons charged with criminal offences.

SEC. 30. The Criminal Court of Baltimore shall have and exercise all the jurisdiction now held and exercised by the Criminal Court of Baltimore, except in such appeal cases as are herein assigned to the Baltimore City Court.

SEC. 31. There shall be elected by the legal and qualified voters of said city, at the election, hereinbefore provided for, one Chief Judge and four Associate Judges, who, together, shall constitute the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City, and shall hold their offices for terms of fifteen years, subject to the provisions of this Constitution with regard to the election and qualifications of judges and their removal from office, and shall exercise the jurisdiction, hereinafter specified, and shall each receive an annual salary of three thousand five hundred dollars,†‡ payable quarterly, which shall not be diminished during their term of office; but authority is hereby given to the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore to pay to each of the said judges an annual addition of five hundred dollars to their respective salaries; provided, that the same being once granted shall not be diminished nor increased during the continuance of said judges in office.

SEC. 31-A. In addition to the authority granted to the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore by the preceding section to pay to each of the judges of the Supreme Bench the annual sum of Five Hundred Dollars, authority is hereby given to said Mayor and City Council to pay to each of said judges such further annual sum as an addition to their respective salaries as the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore shall from time to time deem right and proper, provided, that any such sum being once granted shall not be diminished during the continuance of said judges in office.*

SEC. 32. It shall be the duty of the said Supreme Bench of Baltimore City, as soon as the judges thereof shall be

† Increased by Acts of 1892, Chapter 388, to four thousand five hundred dollars.

‡ Increased by Acts of 1927, Chapter 235, to six thousand eight hundred and seventy-five dollars.

* Sec. 31-A adopted at the November election 1926, as proposed by Ch. 116, Acts of 1924.