

SEC. 23. The judges of the respective Circuit Courts of this State and of the courts of Baltimore city, shall render their decisions in all cases argued before them, or submitted for their judgment, within two months after the same shall have been so argued or submitted.

SEC. 24. The salary of each Chief Judge and of the Judge of the Court of Appeals from the city of Baltimore shall be three thousand five hundred dollars, and of each Associate Judge of the Circuit Court shall be two thousand eight hundred dollars per annum, payable quarterly, and shall not be diminished during his continuance in office.\*\*\*\*

SEC. 25. There shall be a Clerk of the Circuit Court for each county, who shall be elected by a plurality of the qualified voters of said county, and shall hold his office for six years from the time of his election, and until his successor is elected and qualified, and be re-eligible, subject to be removed for wilful neglect of duty or other misdemeanor in office, on conviction in a court of law.<sup>1</sup> In case of a vacancy in the office of Clerk of a Circuit Court, the Judges of said court shall have power to fill such vacancy until the general election for Delegates to the General Assembly, to be held next thereafter, when a successor shall be elected for the term of six years.<sup>2</sup>

SEC. 26. The said clerks shall appoint, subject to the confirmation of the judges of their respective courts, as many deputies under them as the said judges shall deem necessary to perform, together with themselves, the duties of the said office, who shall be removable by the said judges for incompetency, or neglect of duty, and whose compensation shall be according to existing or future provisions of the General Assembly.

#### *Part IV—Courts of Baltimore City.*

SEC. 27. There shall be in the Eighth Judicial Circuit six courts, to be styled the Supreme Bench of Baltimore city, the Superior Court of Baltimore city, the Court of Common Pleas, the Baltimore City Court, the Circuit Court of Baltimore City\* and the Criminal Court† of Baltimore.

SEC. 28. The Superior Court of Baltimore City, the Court of Common Pleas and the Baltimore City Court‡ shall each

\*\*\*\* By the Act of 1927, Chapter 235, the salary of the Chief Judges was increased to eleven thousand five hundred dollars, and each Associate Judge to eight thousand five hundred dollars.

<sup>1</sup>Amended by Article XVII, Section 1.

<sup>2</sup>Cf. *Supra*.

\* Circuit Court No. 2 established by Act of 1888, Chapter 194.

† Criminal Court No. 2 established by rule of the Supreme Bench. December 21, 1897. See 87 Md. 191.

‡ The jurisdiction of the Baltimore City Court, the Superior Court and the Court of Common Pleas was enlarged by the Act of 1870, Chapter 177.