

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. 31A. 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 elected and duly qualified, and from time to time, to provide for the holding of each of the aforesaid courts, by the assignment of one or more of their number to each of the said courts, who may sit either separately or together in the trial of cases; and the said Supreme Bench of Baltimore City may, from time to time, change the said assignment, as circumstances may require, and the public interest may demand; and the judge or judges, so assigned to the said several courts, shall, when holding the same, have all the powers and exercise all the jurisdiction which may belong to the court so being held; and it shall also be the duty of the said Supreme Bench of Baltimore City, in case of the sickness, absence or disability of any judge or judges assigned as aforesaid, to provide for the hearing of the cases, or transaction of the business assigned to said judge or judges, as aforesaid, before some one or more of the judges of said court.

SEC. 33. The said Supreme Bench of Baltimore City shall

† 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.