

the prosecution of appeals to said appellate court whereby they shall prescribe the periods within which appeals may be taken, what part or parts of the proceedings in the court below shall constitute the record on appeal and the manner in which such appeals shall be brought on hearing or determination, and shall regulate, generally, the practice of said Court of Appeals so as to prevent delays and promote brevity in all records and proceedings brought into said court, and to abolish and avoid all unnecessary costs and expenses in the prosecution of appeals therein; and the said judge shall make such reduction in the fees and expenses of the said court, as they may deem advisable. It shall also be the duty of said Judges of the Court of Appeals, as soon after their election as practicable, to devise and promulgate by rules or orders, forms and modes of framing and filing bills, answers and other proceedings and pleadings in equity; and also forms and modes of taking and obtaining evidence, to be used in equity cases; and to revise and regulate, generally, the practice in the Courts of Equity of this State, so as to prevent delays, and to promote brevity and conciseness in all pleadings and proceedings therein, and to abolish all unnecessary costs and expenses attending the same. And all rules and regulations hereby directed to be made shall, when made, have the force of law until rescinded, changed or modified by the said judges or the General Assembly.

\*SEC. 18A. The Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals shall be the administrative head of the judicial system of the State. He shall from time to time require, from each of the judges of the Circuit Court for the several counties and of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City, reports as to the judicial work and business of each of the judges and their respective courts. He may, in case of a vacancy or of illness, disqualification or other absence of one or more judges of the Court of Appeals, designate any judge of any of the Circuit Courts for the counties or of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City, to sit in any case or for a specified period as a judge of the Court of Appeals in lieu of a judge of that court, and may designate, to sit as a judge of the Circuit Court for any county or of any Court or Courts of Baltimore City, either alone or with one or more other judges, in any case or for a specified period, any judge of the Court of Appeals or of any other Circuit Court or of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City. In the absence of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals the provisions of this Section shall be applicable to the senior judge present. The powers of the Chief Judge under the foregoing provisions of this section shall be subject to such rules and regulations, if any, as the Court of Appeals may make. The Court of Appeals from time to time

\* This amendment was submitted by Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1943 and ratified by the people in November, 1944.