

elected or appointed. They shall be not less than thirty years of age at the time of their election or appointment, and shall be selected from those who have been admitted to practice law in this State, and who are most distinguished for integrity, wisdom and sound legal knowledge.

SEC. 3. The Judges of the said several Courts shall be elected in the counties by the qualified voters in their respective Judicial Circuits as hereinafter provided, and in the City of Baltimore, at the general election to be held on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November, as now provided for in the Constitution. Each of the said Judges shall hold his office for the term of fifteen years from the time of his election, and until his successor is elected and qualified, or until he shall have attained the age of seventy years, whichever may first happen, and be re-eligible there-to until he shall have attained the age of seventy years, and not after. Provided, however, that any judge whose term has been extended beyond the age of seventy years by the General Assembly prior to April 7, 1931, shall be permitted to continue in office in accordance with the resolution of the General Assembly in each case. In case of the inability of any of said Judges to discharge his duties with efficiency, by reason of continued sickness, or of physical or mental infirmity, it shall be in the power of the General Assembly, two thirds of the members of each House concurring, with the approval of the Governor, to retire said Judge from office.¹

SEC. 4. Any judge shall be removed from office by the Governor, on conviction in a court of law of incompetency, of wilful neglect of duty, misbehavior in office or any other crime, or on impeachment, according to this constitution, or the laws of the State; or on the address of the General Assembly, two-thirds of each House concurring in such address, and the accused having been notified of the charges against him, and having had opportunity of making his defence.

SEC. 5. Upon every occurrence or recurrence of a vacancy through death, resignation, removal, disqualification by reason of age or otherwise, or expiration of the term of fifteen years of any judge, or creation of the office of any judge, or in any other way, the Governor shall appoint a person duly qualified to fill said office, who shall hold the same until the election and qualification of his successor;

¹ Thus amended by Act of 1931, Chapter 479, ratified by the people at the November election, 1932.