

except that when a vacancy shall exist in the office of Chief Judge of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City, the Governor may designate an Associate Judge of said Supreme Bench as Chief Judge of said Supreme Bench, and such appointee as Chief Judge shall hold such office for the residue of the term for which he was last elected an Associate Judge of said Supreme Bench. His successor shall be elected at the first biennial general election for Representatives in Congress after the expiration of the term of fifteen years (if the vacancy occurred in that way) or the first such general election after one year after the occurrence of the vacancy in any other way than through expiration of such term. Except in case of reappointment of a judge upon expiration of his term of fifteen years, no person shall be appointed who will become disqualified by reason of age and thereby unable to continue to hold office until the prescribed time when his successor would have been elected.¹

SEC. 6. All judges shall by virtue of their offices be conservators of the peace throughout the State; and no fees, or perquisites, commission or reward of any kind, shall be allowed to any judge in this State, besides his annual salary, for the discharge of any judicial duty.

SEC. 7. No judge shall sit in any case wherein he may be interested, or where either of the parties may be connected with him by affinity or consanguinity within such degrees as now are or may hereafter be prescribed by law, or where he shall have been of counsel in the case.

SEC. 8. The parties to any cause may submit the same to the court for determination without the aid of a jury and in all suits or actions at law, issues from the Orphans' Court or from any court sitting in equity, and in all cases of presentments or indictments for offences which are or may be punishable by death pending in any of the courts of law of this State having jurisdiction thereof, upon suggestion in writing under oath of either of the parties to said proceedings, that such party can not have a fair and impartial trial in the court in which the same may be pending, the said court shall order and direct the record of proceedings in such suit or action, issue, presentment or indictment, to be transmitted to some other court having jurisdiction in such case, for trial; but in all other cases of presentment or indictment pending in any of the courts of law in this State having jurisdiction thereof, in addition to the suggestion in writing of either of the parties to such presentment or

¹ Thus amended by Ch. 703 of 1945, and ratified at November election, 1946.