

SEC. 30. The Criminal Court of Baltimore shall have and exercise all the jurisdiction now held and exercised by the Criminal Court of Baltimore, except in such appeal cases as are herein assigned to the Baltimore City Court.

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 the term 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 dollars¹ 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.²

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

¹ Set by Ch. 889 of 1945 at \$9,500. See also Sections 31A and 39 of this Article.

² Sec. 31A adopted at the November election 1926, as proposed by Ch. 116, Acts of 1924.