

cuits, except the Eighth Circuit, in office on December 31, 1944, other than the three designated by the Governor as Judges of the Court of Appeals, shall be additional Judges of the Court of Appeals and shall continue to be Chief Judge of their respective Circuits and shall hold office for the residue of the terms for which they were elected. No successor to any such additional Judge shall be appointed or elected as Judge of the Court of Appeals or (except as provided in Section 21 of this Article) as Judge of his Circuit, but any such additional Judge shall be eligible to appointment as the member of the Court of Appeals from his respective Appellate Judicial Circuit. Any vacancy in any Appellate Judicial Circuit shall be filled by designation by the Governor of one of the additional Judges from such Appellate Judicial Circuit, if any, to hold office for the residue of the term for which he was originally elected. Upon his appointment or designation as a member of the Court of Appeals from his Appellate Judicial Circuit, such additional Judge shall cease to be the Chief Judge of his Circuit. The Judges of the Court of Appeals shall be elected by the qualified voters of their respective Appellate Judicial Circuits, their terms to begin on the date of their qualification. One of the judges of the Court of Appeals shall be designated by the Governor as the Chief Judge. The jurisdiction of the Court of Appeals shall be co-extensive with the limits of the State and such as now is or may hereafter be prescribed by law. It shall hold its sessions in the City of Annapolis on the second Monday in January in the year 1945, and thereafter at such time or times as it shall from time to time by rule prescribe. Its session or sessions shall continue not less than ten months in each year, if the business before it shall so require, and it shall be competent for the judges temporarily to transfer their sittings elsewhere upon sufficient cause. The salary of each judge of the Court of Appeals shall be that now or hereafter prescribed by the General Assembly and shall not be diminished during his continuance in office. When the number of judges shall have become reduced to five, three of the judges shall constitute a quorum, and the concurrence of a majority of a quorum shall be sufficient for the decision of any cause.¹

SEC. 15. Four of said Judges shall constitute a quorum; no cause shall be decided without the concurrence of at least three; but the Judge who heard the cause below, shall not participate in the decision; in every case an opinion, in writing, shall be filed within three months after the argument, or submission of the cause; and the judgment of the

¹ Thus amended by Chapter 772, Acts of 1943, ratified November 7, 1944.