

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 And all rules and regulations hereby directed to be made, shall, when made, have the force of Law, until rescinded, changed, or modified by the said Judges, or the General Assembly.

¹SEC. 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 Courts 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 shall make rules and regulations to regulate and revise the practice and procedure in that Court and in the other courts of this State, which shall have the force of law until rescinded, changed or modified by the Court of Appeals or otherwise by law. The power of the courts other than the Court of Appeals to make rules of practice and procedure shall be subject to the rules and regulations prescribed by the Court of Appeals or otherwise by law.

Part III—Circuit Courts.

SEC. 19. The State shall be divided into eight Judicial Circuits, in manner following, viz.: The Counties of Worcester, Somerset, and Dorchester², shall constitute the First

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

² Wicomico County has been formed since the adoption of this Constitution from Worcester and Somerset Counties. Section 5 of Article 13 of this Constitution puts it in the First Judicial Circuit.