

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; 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 proceed-

¹ Thus amended by Chapter 703, Acts of 1945, ratified November 5, 1946.