

THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE STATE FOR ADOPTION OR REJECTION.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* (Three-fifths of all members elected to each of the two Houses concurring), That the following Section be and the same is hereby proposed as an amendment to Section 21 of Article IV of the Constitution of Maryland, title "Judiciary Department", sub-title "Part III—Circuit Courts", the same, if adopted by the legal and qualified voters of the State as herein provided, to become Section 21 of Article IV of the Constitution of Maryland.

21. From and after January 1, 1955, there shall be in the third, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh circuits at least one judge for each county, who shall be a resident of the county in which he shall hold office, and who shall be elected by the voters thereof, to be styled judges of the circuit court, to be elected or appointed as herein provided. The number of judges for any of the circuits or for any of the counties, may be increased or decreased by the General Assembly from time to time, and any vacancy so created shall be filled as provided in Section 5 of this Article except that in the third, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh judicial circuits there shall never be less than one judge for each county and ~~five~~ in all of the ~~circuits~~ CIRCUITS there shall never be less than ~~three~~ FOUR for each circuit. The senior judge in length of service shall be the Chief Judge of the Circuit; the other judge or judges shall be associate judges. In the first and second judicial circuits no two of said judges of the circuit court shall at the time of their election or appointment, or during the term for which they may have been elected or appointed, reside in any one county. In the first and second judicial circuits, in case any candidate or candidates for judge at any election shall receive sufficient votes to cause such candidate or candidates to be declared elected, but the election of such candidate or candidates would cause more judges than herein permitted to reside in any county of the circuit, then and in that event there shall be declared elected only that candidate or those candidates residing in said county, in the order of the votes received, whose election would provide the permitted number of judges from said county and also the candidate or candidates residing in some other county, and not similarly disqualified, who shall have the next highest number of votes in said election. If, by reason of such a condition or by reason of any equal vote for two or more candidates a sufficient number of judges duly qualified as to residence shall not be elected at any election, then it shall be the duty of the Governor to order a new election