

reserved shall not, however, apply to trials of Appeals from judgments of Justices of the Peace, nor to criminal cases below the grade of felony, except when the punishment is confinement in the Penitentiary; and this Section shall be subject to such provisions as may hereafter be made by Law.

SEC. 23. The Judges of the respective Circuit Courts of this State, and of the Courts of Baltimore city, shall render their decisions, in all cases argued before them, or submitted for their judgment, within two months after the same shall have been so argued or submitted.

SEC. 24. The salary of each Chief Judge and of each Associate Judge of the Circuit Court shall not be diminished during his continuance in office.<sup>1</sup>

SEC. 25. There shall be a Clerk of the Circuit Court for each County, who shall be elected by a plurality of the qualified voters of said County, and shall hold his office for four years from the time of his election, and until his successor is elected and qualified, and be re-eligible, subject to be removed for wilful neglect of duty or other misdemeanor in office, on conviction in a Court of Law. In case of a vacancy in the office of Clerk of a Circuit Court, the Judges of said Court shall have power to fill such vacancy until the general election for Delegates to the General Assembly, to be held next thereafter, when a successor shall be elected for the term of four years.<sup>2</sup>

SEC. 26. The said Clerks shall appoint, subject to the confirmation of the Judges of their respective Courts, as many deputies under them, as the said Judges shall deem necessary to perform, together with themselves, the duties of the said office, who shall be removable by the said Judges for incompetency, or neglect of duty, and whose compensation shall be according to existing, or future provisions of the General Assembly.

#### *Part IV—Courts of Baltimore City.*

SEC. 27. There shall be in the Eighth Judicial Circuit, six Courts, to be styled the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City, the Superior Court of Baltimore City, the Court of Common Pleas, the Baltimore City Court, the Circuit Court of Baltimore City<sup>3</sup> and the Criminal Court<sup>4</sup> of Baltimore.

<sup>1</sup> Thus amended by Chapter 99, Acts of 1956, ratified November 6, 1956. See also sections 14 and 31A of this Article.

<sup>2</sup> Thus amended by Chapter 99, Acts of 1956, ratified November 6, 1956.

<sup>3</sup> Circuit Court No. 2 established by Chapter 194, Acts of 1888.

<sup>4</sup> Criminal Court No. 2 established by rule of the Supreme Bench, Dec. 21, 1897. See *Jackson v. State*, 87, Md. 191.