

*Part III—Circuit Courts.*

<sup>1</sup> SEC. 19. The State shall be divided into eight Judicial Circuits, in manner following, viz.: The Counties of Worcester, Wicomico, Somerset, and Dorchester, shall constitute the First Circuit; the Counties of Caroline, Talbot, Queen Anne's, Kent and Cecil, the Second; the Counties of Baltimore and Harford, the Third; the Counties of Allegany, Garrett, and Washington, the Fourth; the Counties of Carroll, Howard and Anne Arundel, the Fifth; the Counties of Montgomery and Frederick, the Sixth; the Counties of Prince George's, Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's, the Seventh; and Baltimore City, the Eighth.

<sup>2</sup> SEC. 20. A Court shall be held in each County of the State to be styled the Circuit Court for the County, in which it may be held. The said Circuit Courts shall have and exercise, in the respective counties, all the power, authority and jurisdiction, original and appellate, which the present Circuit Courts of this State now have and exercise, or which may hereafter be prescribed by law.

The several judges of the Circuit Court for Montgomery County on and after the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November, nineteen hundred and sixty-six, shall each, alternately and in rotation and on schedules to be established by the said judges, sit as an Orphan's<sup>3</sup> Court for said County, and shall have and exercise all the power, authority and jurisdiction which the present Orphans' Courts now have and exercise, or which may hereafter be prescribed by law.

<sup>4</sup> SEC. 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 in all of the circuits there shall never be less than four for each circuit. The senior judge in length of service shall

<sup>1</sup> Thus amended by Chapter 99, Acts of 1956, ratified November 6, 1956.

<sup>2</sup> Thus amended by Chapter 744, Acts of 1963, ratified November 3, 1964.

<sup>3</sup> Thus in the original.

<sup>4</sup> Thus amended by Chapter 372, Acts of 1966, ratified November 8, 1966.