

SEC. 39.¹³⁰ The General Assembly shall, as often, as it may think the same proper and expedient, provide by law for the election of an additional Judge of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City, and whenever provision is so made by the General Assembly, there shall be elected by the voters of said City another Judge of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City, who shall be subject to the same constitutional provisions, hold his office for the same term of years, receive the same compensation and have the same powers as are, or shall be provided by the Constitution, or laws of this State, for the Judges of said Supreme Bench of Baltimore City, and the General Assembly may provide by laws, or the Supreme Bench by its rules, for requiring causes in any of the Courts of Baltimore City to be tried before the Court without a jury, unless the litigants or some one of them shall within such reasonable time or times as may be prescribed, elect to have their causes tried before a jury. And the General Assembly may reapportion, change or enlarge the jurisdiction of the several Courts in said City.

Part V— Orphans' Court.

SEC. 40.¹³¹ The qualified voters of the City of Baltimore, and of the several Counties, except Montgomery County and Harford County, shall elect three Judges of the Orphans' Courts of City and Counties, respectively, who shall be citizens of the State and residents for the twelve months preceding, in the City or County for which they may be elected. They shall have all the powers now vested in the Orphans' Courts of the State, subject to such changes as the Legislature may prescribe. Each of the Judges shall be paid such compensation as may be regulated by Law, to be paid by the City or Counties, respectively. In case of a vacancy in the office of Judge of the Orphans' Court, the Governor shall appoint, subject to confirmation or rejection by the Senate, some suitable person to fill the vacancy for the residue of the term.

SEC. 41.¹³² There shall be a Register of Wills in each county of the State, and the City of Baltimore, to be elected by the legal and qualified voters of said counties and city, respectively, who shall hold his office for four years from the time

of his election and until his successor is elected and qualified; he shall be re-eligible, and subject at all times to removal for willful neglect of duty, or misdemeanor in office in the same manner that the Clerks of the Courts are removable. In the event of any vacancy in the office of the Register of Wills, said vacancy shall be filled by the Judges of the Orphans' Court, in which such vacancy occurs, until the next general election for Delegates to the General Assembly when a Register shall be elected to serve for four years thereafter.

Part VI— District Court.

SEC. 41A.¹³³ The District Court shall have the original jurisdiction prescribed by law. Jurisdiction of the District Court shall be uniform throughout the State; except that in Montgomery County and other counties and the City of Baltimore, the Court may have such jurisdiction over juvenile causes as is provided by law.

SEC. 41B.¹³⁴ The District Court shall consist of the number of judges prescribed by law. The State shall be divided by law into districts. Each district shall consist of one county or two or more entire and adjoining counties. The number of judges shall be allocated among the districts by law, and there shall be at least one District Court judge resident in each district. In any district containing more than one county, there shall be at least one District Court judge resident in each county in the district. Functional divisions of the District Court may be established in any district.

SEC. 41C. Each District Court judge shall devote full time to his judicial duties, shall have the qualifications prescribed by Section 2 of this Article, and shall be a resident of the district in which he holds office. The number of judges for any district may be increased or decreased by the General Assembly from time to time, subject to the requirements of Section 41B of this Article, and any vacancy so created shall be filled as provided in Section 41D of this Article.

SEC. 41D. The Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint each judge of the District Court whenever for any reason a vacancy shall exist in the office. All hearings, deliberations and debate on the

¹³⁰ Thus amended by Chapter 313, Acts of 1892, ratified November 7, 1893.

¹³¹ Thus amended by Chapter 681, Acts of 1977, ratified November 7, 1978.

¹³² Thus amended by Chapter 99, Acts of 1956, ratified November 6, 1956.

¹³³ Thus amended by Chapter 544, Acts of 1976, ratified November 2, 1976.

¹³⁴ Sections 41B through 41I added by Chapter 789, Acts of 1969, ratified November 3, 1970.