

sixteen wards; and when it shall have increased to one hundred and sixty thousand, the said city shall be divided into eighteen wards; and when it shall have increased to two hundred thousand, the said city shall be divided into twenty wards; and it shall be the duty of the corporation to correct the divisions from time to time, so as to preserve, as accurately as may be, an equal number of inhabitants in each ward.

Annual session—
Quorum—Ap-
pointment of of-
ficers

2. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the annual session of the city council of Baltimore shall hereafter commence on the first Monday of January, two thirds of each branch shall be a quorum to do business; and all persons holding offices under the corporation of the said city, shall, unless otherwise provided by acts of assembly, or by ordinances of the city, be understood to hold such offices during the pleasure of the mayor; and the mayor of the city shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of a convention of the two branches of the city council, shall appoint all officers under the corporation, except the register of the city, and the clerks employed by the city, or under their authority; the register shall be appointed by a convention of the two branches of the city council, biennially; to be commissioned by the mayor, removable nevertheless, at pleasure, by a convention of the said two branches; but vacancies in office happening in the recess of the sessions shall be filled as heretofore.

Electors of mayor
to be equal to
wards
—Bailiffs

3. AND BE IT ENACTED, That from and after the thirtieth day of September next, the number of electors of Mayor shall be the same as the number of wards in the city; and for the purpose of accomplishing more effectually the objects intended by the act*, entitled, An act providing for the appointment of bailiffs for the city of Baltimore, the bailiffs of the said city, whose appointment shall be made in the manner of other city officers, and whose number shall not be less than five, may exercise all the powers, be entitled to all the emoluments, and shall perform all the duties of constables, within the limits of the city, provided that they shall first take the oaths, and execute the bonds, (with security satisfactory to the mayor,) which are prescribed by law for constables.

*Nov. 1812, ch 194

4. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the mayor and city council of Baltimore shall have power to lay and collect direct taxes on the assessments of private property within the city, to such amount as shall be thought necessary for the public or city purposes; and may enforce the collection of all dues and impositions, (except fines, penalties and forfeitures,) in the same manner as is now provided with respect to city taxes; and tenants in possession shall be liable to the payment of taxes imposed upon premises occupied by them, without its operating, however, to alter the nature of contracts between landlords and tenants.

Direct taxes

5. AND BE IT ENACTED, That in case any person, called upon to pay any tax, due or imposition, levied or imposed by the said corporation, shall deny their right to impose or collect the same, the collector shall not proceed to enforce the payment thereof, by distress and sale of the party's goods, provided such person shall, before the time of such distress or sale of goods distrained therefor, go before a justice of the peace within the city, and with one good security, resident of the city and satisfactory to the justice, and shall confess judgment to the mayor and city council of Baltimore, in double the sum demanded, with a condition annexed to the certificate of the confession of judgment, that if the said mayor and

Persons refusing to
pay tax, how to be
proceeded against