

Sec. 2. The Judges of all the said Courts shall be citizens of the State of Maryland, and qualified voters under this Constitution, and shall have resided therein not less than five years, and not less than six months next preceding their election or appointment in the judicial circuit, as the case may be, for which they may be respectively elected or appointed. They shall be not less than thirty years of age at the time of their election or appointment, and shall be selected from those who have been admitted to practice Law in this State, and who are most distinguished for integrity, wisdom and sound legal knowledge.

See art. 33 of the Declaration of Rights.

Sec. 3. The Judges of the said several Courts shall be elected in the Counties by the qualified voters in their respective Judicial Circuits as hereinafter provided, at the general election to be held on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November next, and in the City of Baltimore, on the fourth Wednesday of October next. Each of the said Judges shall hold his office for the term of fifteen years from the time of his election, and until his successor is elected and qualified, or until he shall have attained the age of seventy years, whichever may first happen, and be re-eligible thereto until he shall have attained the age of seventy years, and not after; but in a case of any Judge who shall attain the age of seventy years whilst in office, such Judge may be continued in office by the General Assembly for such further time as they may think fit, not to exceed the term for which he was elected, by a resolution to be passed at the session next preceding his attaining said age. In case of the inability of any of said Judges to discharge his duties with efficiency, by reason of continued sickness, or of physical or mental infirmity, it shall be in the power of the General Assembly, two-thirds of the members of each House concurring, with the approval of the Governor, to retire said Judge from office.

See notes to art. 4, sec. 24.

Sec. 4. Any Judge shall be removed from office by the Governor, on conviction in a Court of Law, of incompetency, of wilful neglect of duty, misbehavior in office or any other crime, or on impeachment, according to this Constitution, or the Laws of the State; or on the address of the General Assembly, two-thirds of each House concurring in such address, and the accused having been notified of the charges against him, and having had opportunity of making his defence.

The meaning of the term "general assembly" as used in this section, referred to in determining that the Governor was not embraced in that term as used in art. 14, sec. 1—see notes thereto. *Warfield v Vandiver*, 101 Md. 111.

It was only in art. 30 of the Bill of Rights (of 1851), and art. 4, secs. 4 and 9, of the Constitution of 1851, that judicial officers were subject to removal by the Governor. *Cantwell v. Owens*, 14 Md. 227.

Sec. 5. After the election for Judges, as hereinbefore provided, there shall be held in this State, in every fifteenth year thereafter, on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November of such year, an election for Judges as herein provided; and in case of death, resignation, removal or disqualification by reason of age or otherwise of any Judge, the Governor shall appoint