

Qualification.

An. Code, sec. 1. 1904, sec. 1. 1888, sec. 1. 1852, ch. 172. 1854, ch. 18.

1. Within thirty days after his commission shall have been received in the clerk's office of the county or city, every justice of the peace shall take and subscribe the oaths and declaration prescribed by the constitution; and upon his failure to do so his office shall be deemed vacant.

An. Code, sec. 2. 1904, sec. 2. 1888, sec. 2. 1814, ch. 82, sec. 3.

2. No person commissioned as a justice of the peace shall act as such before he has taken the oath and made the declaration required by law; and every person violating this section shall, for each offense, forfeit and pay the sum of forty dollars.

An. Code, sec. 3. 1904, sec. 3. 1888, sec. 3. 1814, ch. 82, sec. 4.

3. If any justice of the peace, having qualified as such, shall accept any office under the government of the United States and shall still act as justice of the peace, he shall forfeit and pay for every such offense the sum of forty dollars.

New Election Districts and New Wards of Baltimore City.

An. Code, sec. 4. 1904, sec. 4. 1888, sec. 4. 1852, ch. 274, sec. 3.

4. For each new election district that may be formed and established in the several counties and for each additional ward that may be created in the city of Baltimore, there shall be appointed, as prescribed by the constitution, two justices of the peace, unless a different number be specially provided by law.

Civil Jurisdiction.

An. Code, sec. 5. 1904, sec. 5. 1888, sec. 5. 1791, ch. 68, sec. 1.

5. Any justice of the peace of the county where the defendant resides may, if the case be within his jurisdiction, try, hear and determine the matter in controversy between the plaintiff and defendant upon full hearing of the allegations and evidence of both parties and shall give judgment according to the law of the land and the equity and right of the matter.

As to the amendment of proceedings before justice of the peace, see art. 75, sec. 39. (See also art. 52, sec. 14.)

An. Code, sec. 6. 1904, sec. 6. 1888, sec. 6. 1791, ch. 68. 1809, ch. 76, sec. 1. 1824, ch. 138. 1825, ch. 51. 1834, ch. 296. 1852, ch. 239, sec. 1. 1898, ch. 167. 1900, ch. 302.

6. The civil jurisdiction of justices of the peace extends to all cases for the enforcement of contracts and to obtain redress for wrongs where the debt or damages claimed shall not exceed one hundred dollars; to all suits on bonds with penalty exceeding one hundred dollars where the sum due and claimed does not exceed one hundred dollars; to actions of replevin where the value of the thing in controversy does not exceed one hundred dollars and which value shall be ascertained by appraisers sum-