

ARTICLE 3. — OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF POWERS.

The powers of the government shall be distributed into three departments; the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial.

ARTICLE 4. — OF THE LEGISLATIVE POWER.

§ 1. This Constitution shall be the supreme law of the State, and any law inconsistent therewith shall be void. The General Assembly shall pass all laws necessary to carry this Constitution into effect.

§ 2. The Legislative power, under this Constitution, shall be vested in two Houses, the one to be called the Senate, the other the House of Representatives; and both together the General Assembly. The concurrence of the two Houses shall be necessary to the enactment of laws. The style of their laws shall be, *It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows* :

§ 3. There shall be two sessions of the General Assembly holden annually; one at Newport, on the first Tuesday of May, for the purposes of election and other business; the other on the last Monday of October, which last session shall be holden at South Kingstown, once in two years, and the intermediate years alternately at Bristol, and East Greenwich; and an adjournment from the October session shall be holden annually at Providence.

§ 4. No member of the General Assembly shall take any fee, or be of counsel in any case pending before either House of the General Assembly, under penalty of forfeiting his seat, upon proof thereof to the satisfaction of the House of which he is a member.

§ 5. The person of every member of the General Assembly shall be exempt from arrest and his estate from attachment in any civil action, during the session of the General Assembly, and two days before the commencement, and two days after the termination thereof, and all process served contrary hereto shall be void. For any speech in debate in either House, no member shall be questioned in any other place.

§ 6. Each House shall be the judge of the elections and qualifications of its members; and a majority shall constitute a quorum to do business; but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and may compel the attendance of absent members, in such manner, and under such penalties as may be prescribed by such House or by law. The organization of the two Houses may be regulated by law, subject to the limitations contained in this constitution.

§ 7. Each House may determine its rules of proceeding, punish contempts, punish its members for disorderly behaviour, and, with the concurrence of two-thirds, expel a member; but not a second time for the same cause.

§ 8. Each House shall keep a journal of its proceedings. The yeas and nays of the members of either House, shall, at the desire of one-fifth of those present, be entered on the journal.

§ 9. Neither House shall, during a session, without the consent of the other, adjourn for more than two days, nor to any other place than that in which they may be sitting.

§ 10. The General Assembly shall continue to exercise the powers they have heretofore exercised, unless prohibited in this constitution.

§ 11. The Senators and Representatives shall receive the sum of one dollar for every day of attendance, and eight cents per mile for travelling expenses in going to and returning from the General Assembly. The