

so elected, within ten days next after such election ; and the clerks of towns and plantations, respectively, shall seal up copies of all such lists, and cause them to be delivered into the secretary's office twenty days at least before the first Wednesday in January, annually ; but, in case no person shall have a majority of votes, the selectmen and assessors shall, as soon as may be, notify another meeting, and the same proceedings shall be at every future meeting until an election shall have been effected, provided, that the legislature may, by law, prescribe a different mode of returning, examining, and ascertaining the election of the representatives in such classes.

6. Whenever the seat of a member shall be vacated, by death, resignation, or otherwise, the vacancy may be filled by a new election.

7. The house of representatives shall choose their speaker, clerk, and other officers.

8. The house of representatives shall have the sole power of impeachment.

#### ARTICLE 4.—PART SECOND.

##### *Senate.*

§ 1. The senate shall consist of not less than twenty, nor more than thirty-one members ; elected at the same time, and for the same term, as the representatives, by the qualified electors of the districts into which the state shall, from time to time, be divided.

2. The legislature which shall be first convened under this constitution shall, on or before the fifteenth day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-one, and the legislature at every subsequent period of ten years, cause the state to be divided into districts for the choice of senators. The district shall conform, as near as may be, to county lines, and be apportioned according to the number of inhabitants. The number of senators shall not exceed twenty at the first apportionment, and shall, at each apportionment, be increased, until they shall amount to thirty-one, according to the increase in the house of representatives.

3. The meetings for the election of senators shall be notified, held, and regulated, and the votes received, sorted, counted, declared, and recorded, in the same manner as those for representatives. And fair copies of the lists of votes shall be attested by the selectmen and town clerks of towns, and the assessors and clerks of plantations, and sealed up in open town and plantation meetings, and the town and plantation clerks, respectively, shall cause the same to be delivered into the secretary's office, thirty days at least before the first Wednesday of January. All other qualified electors, living in places unincorporated, who shall be assessed to the support of government by the assessors of an adjacent town, shall have the privilege of voting for senators, representatives, and governor, in such town, and shall be notified by the selectmen thereof, for the purpose, accordingly.

4. The governor and council shall, as soon as may be, examine returned copies of such lists, and, twenty days before the said first Wednesday of January, issue a summons to such persons as shall appear to be elected by a majority of the votes in each district, to attend that day and take their seats.