

if passed over the veto by the affirmative vote of three-fifths of all the members of each house. The law shall take effect on the first day of July after passage, unless another effective date after passage is established by joint resolution of the General Assembly.

### **ATTORNEY GENERAL**

#### **Section 4.17. Office of Attorney General.**

The attorney general shall be the chief legal officer of the State. He shall represent the State in all criminal cases in the Court of Appeals, the Intermediate Appellate Court, and the courts of the United States, and shall represent the State in all civil cases or proceedings in which the State is a party or may be interested. He shall have those other powers and duties with respect to criminal and civil cases or proceedings, and with respect to his responsibilities as chief legal officer of the State, that the General Assembly may prescribe by law. Upon request, he shall give his opinion on any legal matter to either house of the General Assembly or to its presiding officer, or to the governor, or to any other officer, agency, or department of the State. The attorney general may appoint, to serve at his pleasure, the number of deputies or assistants that the General Assembly may prescribe by law.

#### **Section 4.18. Qualifications.**

The attorney general shall have been a qualified voter in the State and have been authorized to practice law in the State for at least five years immediately preceding his election or appointment.

#### **Section 4.19. Election.**

The attorney general shall be elected by the voters of the State for a term beginning on the first Wednesday in January following his election and ending on the first Wednesday in January in the fourth year thereafter, and shall serve until his successor has qualified. If the first Wednesday in January is a legal holiday the term shall begin on the next day. If the office becomes vacant the governor shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the Senate, a person to the office for the remainder of the term.