

extensive with the limits of the State and such as now is or may hereafter be prescribed by law. It shall hold its sessions in the City of Annapolis [on the second Monday in January in the year 1945, and thereafter] at such time or times as it shall from time to time by rule prescribe. Its session or sessions shall continue not less than ten months in each year, if the business before it shall so require, and it shall be competent for the judges temporarily to transfer their sittings elsewhere upon sufficient cause. The salary of each Judge of the Court of Appeals shall be that now or hereafter prescribed by the General Assembly and shall not be diminished during his continuance in office. [When the number of Judges shall have become reduced to five, three] *Three* of the Judges shall constitute a quorum, and the concurrence of a majority of a quorum shall be sufficient for the decision of any cause.

SEC. 15. [Four of said Judges shall constitute a quorum; no cause shall be decided without the concurrence of at least three; but the] *The* Judge who heard the cause below [.] shall not participate in the decision; in every case an opinion, in writing, shall be filed within three months after the argument, or submission of the cause; and the judgment of the Court shall be final and conclusive; and all cases shall stand for hearing at the first term after the transmission of the Record.

SEC. 17. There shall be a Clerk of the Court of Appeals, who [after the expiration of the current term of the present incumbent,] shall be appointed by and shall hold his office at the pleasure of said Court of Appeals.

SEC. 18. It shall be the duty of the Judges of the Court of Appeals [as soon after their election, under this Constitution, as practicable,] to make and publish rules and regulations for the prosecution of appeals to said appellate Court, whereby they shall prescribe the periods within which appeals may be taken, what part or parts of the proceedings in the Court below shall constitute the record on appeal, and the manner in which such appeals shall be brought to hearing or determination, and shall regulate, generally, the practice of said Court of Appeals, so as to prevent delays, and promote brevity in all records and proceedings brought into said Court, and to abolish and avoid all unnecessary costs and expenses in the prosecution of appeals therein; and the said Judges shall make such reduction in the fees and expenses of the said Court as they may deem advisable. It shall also be the duty of said Judges of the Court of Appeals [as soon after their election as practicable,] to devise, and promulgate by rules, or orders, forms and modes of framing and filing bills, answers, and other proceedings and pleadings in Equity; and also forms and modes of taking and obtaining evidence, to be used in Equity cases; and to revise and regulate, generally, the practice in the Courts of Equity of this State, so as to prevent delays, and to promote brevity and conciseness in all pleadings and proceedings therein, and to abolish all unnecessary costs and expenses attending the same. And all rules and regulations hereby directed to be made, shall, when made, have the force of Law, until rescinded, changed, or modified by the said Judges, or the General Assembly.

SEC. 19. The State shall be divided into eight Judicial Circuits, in manner following, viz.: The Counties of Worcester, *Wicomico*,