

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION OF MARYLAND

PROPOSED CONSTITUTION OF 1968

CONSTITUTION OF 1867

committees, shall be absolutely privileged, and a member shall not be liable therefor in any civil action or criminal prosecution.

**General Assembly**

**Section 3.15. Sessions.**

The General Assembly may provide by law for an organizational session prior to the convening of the regular session. The General Assembly shall convene in regular session on the third Wednesday of January of each year, unless otherwise prescribed by law, and may continue in session for a period not longer than ninety days; provided that by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of each house a regular session may be extended for a period not longer than thirty days, and that by the affirmative vote of three-fifths of the members of each house a regular session may be extended a second time for a period not longer than thirty days. The governor may convene a special session of the General Assembly at any time and shall convene a special session upon the written request of three-fifths of all the members of each house. The governor may, on extraordinary occasions, convene the Senate by proclamation, stating the purpose for which he has convened it. The presiding officer of the Senate and the presiding officer of the House of Delegates, acting concurrently, may convene a special session of the General Assembly at any time.

**Section 3.16. Organization.**

Each house shall be the judge of the qualifications and selection of its members, as prescribed by this Constitution and the laws of this State. Each house shall elect its officers and determine its rules of procedure, and may permit its committees and subcommittees to meet between sessions of the General Assembly. Each house, by the affirmative vote of a majority of all its members, may compel the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of records and papers either before the house as a whole or before any of its committees and subcommittees, provided that the rights and the records and papers of all witnesses in such cases are protected by law. Each house may punish a member for disorderly or disrespectful behavior, by the affirmative vote of a majority

Art. III, sec. 18. No Senator or Delegate shall be liable in any civil action, or criminal prosecution, whatever, for words spoken in debate.

Declaration of Rights, Art. 12. That for redress of grievances, and for amending, strengthening and preserving the Laws, the Legislature ought to be frequently convened.

Art. II, sec. 16. The Governor shall convene the Legislature, or the Senate alone, on extraordinary occasions; and whenever from the presence of an enemy, or from any other cause, the Seat of Government shall become an unsafe place for the meeting of the Legislature, he may direct their sessions to be held at some other convenient place.

Art. III, sec. 14. The General Assembly shall meet on the third Wednesday of January, nineteen hundred and sixty-five, and on the same day in every year thereafter, and at no other time, unless convened by Proclamation of the Governor.

Sec. 15. The General Assembly may continue its session so long as in its judgment the public interest may require, for a period not longer than seventy days in each year; . . . When the General Assembly shall be convened by Proclamation of the Governor, the session shall not continue longer than thirty days, but no additional compensation other than mileage and other allowances provided by Law shall be paid members of the General Assembly for special session.

Sec. 19. Each House shall be judge of the qualifications and elections of its members, as prescribed by the Constitution and Laws of the State; shall appoint its own officers, determine the rules of its own proceedings, punish a member for disorderly, or disrespectful behavior, and with the consent of two-thirds of its whole number of members elected, expel a member; but no member shall be expelled a second time for the same offence.

Sec. 24. The House of Delegates may inquire, on the oath of witnesses, into all complaints, grievances and offences, as the Grand Inquest of the State, and may commit any person, for any crime, to the public jail, there to remain, until discharged by due course of Law. They may examine and pass all accounts of the State, relating