

Cession of Territory to this State.

SEC. 48. The General Assembly shall have power to accept the cession of any territory contiguous to this State, from the States of Virginia and West Virginia, or from the United States, with the consent of Congress, and of the inhabitants of such ceded territory, and in case of such cessions the General Assembly may divide such territory into counties, and shall provide for the representation of the same in the General Assembly, on the basis fixed by this Constitution, and may for that purpose increase the number of Senators and Delegates, and the General Assembly shall enact such laws as may be required to extend the Constitution and laws of this State over such territory, and may create courts conformably to the Constitution for such territory, and may for that purpose increase the number of Judges of the Court of Appeals.

Extension of Constitution, &c., over the same.

Registration of Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

SEC. 49. The General Assembly shall provide by law for the registration of births, marriages and deaths, and shall pass laws providing for the celebration of marriage between any persons legally competent to contract marriage, and shall provide that any persons prevented by conscientious scruples from being married by any of the existing provisions of law, may be married by any Judge or Clerk of any Court of Record, or any Mayor of any incorporated city in this State.

Marriages by Judge.

Rate of Interest.

13 Md. 202.

SEC. 50. The rate of interest in this State shall not exceed six per centum per annum, and no higher rate shall be taken or demanded, and the General Assembly shall provide by law, all necessary forfeitures and penalties against usury.

Corporations to be formed under General Laws.

1852, ch. 231.

1853, ch. 320.

1854, ch. 147.

SEC. 51. Corporations may be formed under general laws, but shall not be created by special act, except for municipal purposes and in cases where, in the judgment of the General Assembly, the object of the corporation cannot be attained under general laws. All laws and special acts, pursuant to this section, may be altered from time to time, or repealed; *Provided*, nothing herein contained shall be construed to alter, change or amend, in any manner, the section in relation to banks.