

pedient. They therefore beg leave to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject.

All which is respectfully submitted,

EDWARD LONG, Chairman.

ZABDIEL W. POTTER,

A. KILGOUR,

W. B. CLARKE.

Which was read the first time.

Mr. Williams, of Baltimore city, from the minority of the committee on Grievances and Courts of Justice, submitted the following as a substitute for that of the majority, accompanied with three bills:

The undersigned a minority of the committee on Grievances and of Courts of Justice, which committee was instructed to enquire into the expediency of reporting the following bills, in amendment of the constitution, viz:

1. A bill entitled, an act to limit the tenure of office of the Judges and of the Chancellor, hereafter to be appointed.

2. A bill entitled, an act to limit the tenure of office of the Attorney General.

3. A bill entitled, an act to lessen the number of Judges in certain Judicial districts.

Deeming it highly expedient that the constitution should be amended in these particulars, have reported the accompanying bills which, if passed by this Legislature and confirmed at the next annual session, will accomplish most desirable objects.

It will be seen by the terms of the order and by the bills reported, that it is not proposed to disturb the present incumbents in their offices. The bills only affect appointments, to be made after the constitution is thus amended.

The Judges and Chancellor thereafter appointed are to hold their offices for seven years. The Attorney General is not to hold his office for more than three years, and always to become vacant on the coming in of a new Governor. And the number of Judges in the five first Judicial districts is to be lessened to two, when vacancies occur therein. This last alteration will save to the Treasury \$7,000 per annum, without impairing the administration of justice in those districts, or unduly burthening the Judges.

The undersigned regard the appointment of officers for life as incompatible with republican institutions—as destroying all proper accountability to the people by whom they are placed in delegated authority—and as exposing such officers to the evils incident to the possession of irresponsible power, so apt to corrupt the mind, and to engender in it undue partialities and prejudices.

It takes away also the opportunity of relieving the State from the injury of sustaining incompetent, and the burthen of supporting superannuated officers.

With the exception of the United States, where, by reason of their limited jurisdiction, the number of Judges is few, and some of