

contracted by the legislature, unless such debt shall be authorized by a law providing for the collection of an annual tax or taxes sufficient to pay the interest on such debt as it falls due, and also to discharge the principal thereof within fifteen years from the time of contracting the same, and the taxes laid for this purpose shall not be repealed or applied to any other object until the said debt and the interest thereon shall be fully discharged, and the amount of debts so contracted and remaining unpaid shall never exceed one hundred thousand dollars. The credit of the State shall not, in any manner, be given or loaned to or in aid of any individual, association or corporation, nor shall the general assembly have the power, in any mode, to involve the State in the construction of works of internal improvement, or in any enterprise which shall involve the faith or credit of the State, or make any appropriations therefor. And they shall not use or appropriate the proceeds of the internal improvement companies, or of the State tax now levied, or which may hereafter be levied, to pay off the public debt, to any other purpose, until the interest and debt are fully paid, or the sinking fund shall be equal to the amount of the outstanding debt; but the legislature may, without laying a tax, borrow an amount never to exceed fifty thousand dollars, to meet temporary deficiencies in the treasury, and may contract debts to any amount that may be necessary for the defence of the State.

Sec. 23. No extra compensation shall be granted or allowed by the general assembly to any public officer, agent, servant or contractor, after the services shall have been rendered or the contract entered into. Nor shall the salary or compensation of any public officer be increased or diminished during his term of office.

Sec. 24. No senator or delegate, after qualifying as such, shall, during the term for which he was elected, be eligible to any office which shall have been created, or the salary or profits of which shall have been increased during such term, or shall, during said term, hold any office or receive the salary or profits of any office under the appointment of the executive or legislature.

Sec. 25. Each house may punish by imprisonment, during the session of the general assembly, any person not a member, for disrespectful or disorderly behavior in its presence, or for obstructing any of its proceedings or any of its officers in the execution of their duties; provided, such imprisonment shall not, at any one time, exceed ten days.

Sec. 26. The members of each house shall, in all cases, except treason, felony, or other criminal offence, be privileged from arrest during their attendance at the session of the general assembly, and in going to and returning from the same, allowing one day for every thirty miles such member may reside from the

place at which the general assembly is convened.

Sec. 27. No senator or delegate shall be liable, in any civil action or criminal prosecution whatever, for words spoken in debate.

Sec. 28. 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 either in the collection or expenditure of the revenue, and appoint auditors to state and adjust the same—they may call for all public or official papers, and records, and send for persons whom they may judge necessary in the course of their inquiries concerning affairs relating to the public interest, and may direct all office bonds which shall be made payable to the State, to be sued for any breach of duty.

Sec. 29. In case of death, disqualification, resignation, refusal to act, expulsion or removal from the county or city for which he shall have been elected, of any person who shall have been chosen as a delegate or senator, or in case of a tie between two or more such qualified persons, a warrant of election shall be issued by the speaker of the house of delegates or president of the senate, as the case may be, for the election of another person in his place, of which election, not less than ten days notice shall be given, exclusive of the day of the publication of the notice and of the day of election; and in case of such resignation or refusal to act, being communicated in writing, to the Governor, by the person making it, or if such death occur during the legislative recess and more than ten days before its termination, it shall be the duty of the Governor to issue a warrant of election to supply the vacancy thus created in the same manner that the said speaker or president might have done during the session of the legislature; provided, however, that unless a meeting of the general assembly may intervene, the election thus ordered to fill such vacancy shall be held on the day of the ensuing election for delegates and senators.

Sec. 30. The senators and delegates shall receive a per diem of four dollars, and such mileage as may be allowed by law, and the presiding officer of each House shall be allowed an addition of one dollar per day. No book or other printed matter not appertaining to the business of the session, shall be purchased or subscribed for, for the use of the members or be distributed among them, at the public expense.

Sec. 31. No law passed by the general assembly shall take effect until the first day of June next after the session at which it may be passed, unless it be otherwise expressly declared therein.