

ment in any hearing involving his own removal or retirement.

(c) This section is alternative to, and cumulative with, the methods of retirement and removal provided in Sections 3 and 4 of this Article, and in Section 26 of Article III of this Constitution.

#### 5. Vacancies.

Upon every occurrence or recurrence of a vacancy through failure of confirmation, death, resignation, removal, disqualification by reason of age or otherwise, or expiration of the term of office of the judge of any court described in Section 3 of this Article, or creation of the office of a judge of any such court, or in any other way, the office shall be filled by appointment and confirmation as prescribed in this Article; except that when a vacancy shall exist in the office of Chief Judge of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City, the Governor may designate an Associate Judge of said Supreme Bench as Chief Judge of said Supreme Bench, and such appointee as Chief Judge shall hold such office for the residue of the term which he is serving as an Associate Judge of said Supreme Bench.

#### 5A. Interim Provisions.

For the purpose of implementing these amendments to Article IV of this Constitution, the following provisions shall govern:

(a) No member of the General Assembly at which these amendments are proposed, or at which the number of or salary of judges for any of the courts of the eight circuits or for any of the counties, or for the Court of Appeals or special court of appeals may be or may have been increased or decreased by the General Assembly from time to time, if otherwise qualified, shall be ineligible for appointment as judge of the Court of Appeals or any other court by reason of his membership in such General Assembly.

(b) All provisions of the Constitution of Maryland, all laws and all rules of court, not inconsistent with these amendments, shall remain in full force and effect until duly amended or repealed.

(c) The amendments to Section 4B of this Article shall apply to all judges holding office on the effective date of these amendments, as well as to those subsequently appointed.