

than the whole number of said Circuit Judges, upon the decision or determination of any point, or question, by the Court, it shall be competent to the party, against whom the ruling or decision is made, upon motion, to have the point, or question reserved for the consideration of the three Judges of the Circuit, who shall constitute a court *in banc* for such purpose; and the motion for such reservation shall be entered of record, during the sitting, at which such decision may be made; and the several Circuit Courts shall regulate, by rules, the mode and manner of presenting such points, or questions to the court *in banc*, and the decision of the said Court *in banc* shall be the effective decision in the premises, and conclusive, as against the party, at whose motion said points, or questions were reserved; but such decision *in banc* shall not preclude the right of Appeal, or writ of error to the adverse party, in those cases, civil or criminal, in which appeal, or writ of error to the Court of Appeals may be allowed by Law. The right of having questions reserved shall not, however, apply to trials of Appeals from judgments of the District Court, nor to criminal cases below the grade of felony, except when the punishment is confinement in the Penitentiary; and this Section shall be subject to such provisions as may hereafter be made by Law.

SEC. 23.¹²² The Judges of the respective Circuit Courts of this State shall render their decisions, in all cases argued before them, or submitted for their judgment, within two months after the same shall have been so argued or submitted.

SEC. 24.¹²³ The salary of each Chief Judge and of each Associate Judge of the Circuit Court shall not be diminished during his continuance in office.

SEC. 25.¹²⁴ There shall be a Clerk of the Circuit Court for each County and Baltimore City, who shall be elected by a plurality of the qualified voters of said County or City, and shall hold this office for four years from the time of his election, and until his successor is elected and qualified, and be re-eligible, subject to be removed for wilful neglect of duty or other misdemeanor in office, on conviction in a Court of Law. In case of a vacancy in the office of Clerk of a Circuit Court, the Judges of that Court may fill the vacancy until the general election for Delegates to the General Assembly, to be held next thereafter, when a successor shall be elected for the term of four years.

SEC. 26.¹²⁵ The Clerks shall appoint, subject to the confirmation of the Judges of their respective Courts, as many deputies under them, as the Judges shall deem necessary, to perform, together with themselves, the duties of the office, who shall be removable by the Judges for incompetency, or neglect of duty, and whose compensation shall be determined by law. In Washington County, all deputy clerks and other employees of the office of the clerk shall be appointed and be removable according to the merit system procedure established by law for these deputies and clerks. All deputy clerks and other employees of the office of the Clerk of the Criminal Court of Baltimore City, excepting the Clerks, shall be selected pursuant to and be removable according to a procedure established by law for these deputies and clerks.

Part IV—Courts of Baltimore City

SEC. 27.¹²⁶ Vacant.

SEC. 28.¹²⁷ Vacant.

SEC. 29.¹²⁸ Vacant.

SEC. 30.¹²⁹ Vacant.

SEC. 31.¹³⁰ Vacant.

SEC. 31A.¹³¹ Vacant.

SEC. 32.¹³² Vacant.

SEC. 33.¹³³ Vacant.

SEC. 34.¹³⁴ Vacant.

SEC. 35.¹³⁵ Vacant.

SEC. 36.¹³⁶ Vacant.

SEC. 37.¹³⁷ Vacant.

SEC. 38.¹³⁸ Vacant.

SEC. 39.¹³⁹ Vacant.

Part V—Orphans' Court.

SEC. 40.¹⁴⁰ The qualified voters of the City of Baltimore, and of the several Counties, except Montgomery County and Harford County, shall elect three Judges of the Orphans' Courts of City and Counties, respectively, who shall be citizens of the State and residents for the twelve months preceding, in the City or County for which they may be elected. They shall have all the powers now vested in the Orphans' Courts of the State, subject to such changes as the Legislature may prescribe. Each of the Judges shall be paid such compensation as may be regulated by Law, to be paid by the City or Counties, respectively. In case of a vacancy in the office of Judge of the Orphans' Court, the Governor shall appoint, subject to confirmation or rejection by the Senate, some suitable person to fill the vacancy for the residue of the term.

SEC. 41.¹⁴¹ There shall be a Register of Wills in each county of the State, and the City of Baltimore, to be elected by the legal and qualified voters of said counties and city, respectively, who shall

¹²⁸ Amended by Chapter 889, Acts of 1974, ratified Nov. 5, 1974. Repealed by Chapter 523, Acts of 1980, ratified Nov. 4, 1980.

¹²⁹ Amended by Chapter 889, Acts of 1974, ratified Nov. 5, 1974. Repealed by Chapter 523, Acts of 1980, ratified Nov. 4, 1980.

¹³⁰ Amended by Chapter 889, Acts of 1974, ratified Nov. 5, 1974. Repealed by Chapter 523, Acts of 1980, ratified Nov. 4, 1980.

¹³¹ Added by Chapter 116, Acts of 1924, ratified Nov. 2, 1926. Repealed by Chapter 617, Acts of 1968, ratified Nov. 5, 1968.

¹³² Amended by Chapter 889, Acts of 1974, ratified Nov. 5, 1974. Repealed by Chapter 523, Acts of 1980, ratified Nov. 4, 1980.

¹³³ Amended by Chapter 889, Acts of 1974, ratified Nov. 5, 1974. Repealed by Chapter 523, Acts of 1980, ratified Nov. 4, 1980.

¹³⁴ Amended by Chapter 889, Acts of 1974, ratified Nov. 5, 1974. Repealed by Chapter 523, Acts of 1980, ratified Nov. 4, 1980.

¹³⁵ Amended by Chapter 889, Acts of 1974, ratified Nov. 5, 1974. Repealed by Chapter 523, Acts of 1980, ratified Nov. 4, 1980.

¹³⁶ Repealed by Chapter 681, Acts of 1977, ratified Nov. 7, 1978.

¹³⁷ Amended by Chapter 99, Acts of 1956, ratified Nov. 6, 1956; Chapter 889, Acts of 1974, ratified Nov. 5, 1974. Repealed by Chapter 523, Acts of 1980, ratified Nov. 4, 1980.

¹³⁸ Amended by Chapter 889, Acts of 1974, Nov. 5, 1974. Repealed by Chapter 523, Acts of 1980, ratified Nov. 4, 1980.

¹³⁹ Added by Chapter 313, Acts of 1892, ratified Nov. 7, 1893. Amended by Chapter 889, Acts of 1974, ratified Nov. 5, 1974. Repealed by Chapter 523, Acts of 1980, ratified Nov. 4, 1980.

¹⁴⁰ Amended by Chapters 99 and 124, Acts of 1956, ratified Nov. 6, 1956; Chapter 744, Acts of 1963, ratified Nov. 3, 1964; Chapter 374, Acts of 1972, ratified Nov. 7, 1972; Chapter 681, Acts of 1977, ratified Nov. 7, 1978.

¹⁴¹ Amended by Chapter 99, Acts of 1956, ratified Nov. 6, 1956.

¹²² Amended by Chapter 523, Acts of 1980, ratified Nov. 4, 1980.

¹²³ Amended by Chapter 99, Acts of 1956, ratified Nov. 6, 1956.

¹²⁴ Amended by Chapter 99, Acts of 1956, ratified Nov. 6, 1956; Chapter 523, Acts of 1980, ratified Nov. 4, 1980.

¹²⁵ Amended by Chapter 376, Acts of 1972, ratified Nov. 7, 1972; Chapter 889, Acts of 1974, ratified Nov. 5, 1974; Chapter 523, Acts of 1980, ratified Nov. 4, 1980.

¹²⁶ Repealed by Chapter 523, Acts of 1980, ratified Nov. 4, 1980.

¹²⁷ Amended by Chapter 889, Acts of 1974, ratified Nov. 5, 1974. Repealed by Chapter 523, Acts of 1980, ratified Nov. 4, 1980.