

the duties and be entitled to the fees which appertain to the offices of the clerks of court of appeals for the Eastern and Western Shores and of the clerks of county courts, and the clerks of the court of common pleas, the superior court, and the criminal court for Baltimore city, shall perform all the duties appertaining to their respective offices, and heretofore vested in the clerks of Baltimore county court and Baltimore city court respectively, and be entitled to all the fees now allowed by law; and all laws relating to the clerks of court of appeal, clerks of the several county courts, and Baltimore city court, shall be applicable to the clerks respectively of the clerk of court of appeals, the circuit courts, the court of common pleas, the superior court, and the criminal court of Baltimore city, until otherwise provided by law; and the said clerks, when duly elected and qualified according to law, shall have the charge and custody of the records and other papers belonging to their respective offices.

§ 17. The qualified voters of the city of Baltimore, and of the several counties of the state, shall, on the first Wednesday of November, eighteen hundred and fifty-one, and on the same day of the same month in every fourth year for ever thereafter, elect three men to be judges of the orphans' court of said city and counties respectively, who shall be citizens of the state of Maryland, and citizens of the city or county for which they may be severally elected at the time of their election. They shall have all the powers now vested in the orphans' courts of this state, subject to such changes therein as the legislature may prescribe, and each of said judges shall be paid at a per diem rate, for the time they are in session, to be fixed by the legislature, and paid by the said counties and city respectively.

§ 18. There shall be a register of wills in each county of the state, and in the city of Baltimore, to be elected by the legal and qualified voters of said counties and city respectively, who shall hold his office for six years from the time of his election, and until a new election shall take place, and be re-eligible thereto, subject to be removed for wilful neglect of duty, or misdemeanor in office, in the same manner that the clerks of the county courts are removable. In the event of any vacancy in the office of register of wills, said vacancy shall be filled by the judges of the orphans' court until the general election next thereafter for delegates to the general assembly, when a register shall be elected to fill such vacancy.

§ 19. The legislature at its first session after the adoption of this constitution, shall fix the number of justices of the peace and constables for each ward of the city of Baltimore, and for each election district in the several counties, who shall be elected by the legal and qualified voters thereof respectively, at the next general election for delegates thereafter, and shall hold their offices for two years from the time of their election, and until their successors in office are elected and qualified; and the legislature may, from time to time, increase or diminish the number of justices of the peace and constables to be elected in the several wards and election districts, as the wants and interests of the people may require. They shall be, by virtue of their offices, conservators of the peace in the said counties and city respectively, and shall have such duties and com-