

Comparison of Present and All Former Maryland State Constitutions

PREFATORY STATEMENT

This chapter presents a literal comparison of the present Constitution of the State of Maryland and those constitutions which the State has had at earlier periods in its history, to wit: the Constitutions of 1776, 1851, and 1864. This comparison is set up to make easily observable the evolution of the various provisions. There are six principal columns on each two-page spread. To the left of these is a column of marginal notes describing briefly the subject matter contained in the respectively compared provisions.

The present Constitution as it reads in 1968 is set forth in numerical order in the first column of the following sets of pages. It is complete except for Articles XI-A, XI-B, XI-C, XI-D, XI-E, XI-F and XVI. These articles were all introduced as amendments to the Constitution of 1867 and do not have any corresponding provisions in earlier constitutions. For the text of these articles see pages 378-392 and 399-402 of the REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION COMMISSION (1967).

The Constitution of 1867, as it was adopted, is set forth in the second column. A comparison of the first two columns will reflect the effect of amendments to the Constitution of 1867. However, it should be noted that all amendments to the Constitution of 1867 will not be reflected by this comparison since some amendments have been made that were subsequently repealed; and other amendments have been made to previous amendments,

thus encompassing them. For a complete chronological listing of the amendments to the Constitution of 1867 see Chapter XVIII, pages 583-595. The Constitution of 1867 is set forth in almost numerical order, but amendments have required some exceptions. For the text of the Constitution of 1867 in numerical order see Chapter XVI, pages 511-555.

The Constitution of 1864, as it was adopted, is set forth in the third column. The only amendment to this Constitution is also in the third column. For the text of the Constitution of 1864 in numerical order see Chapter XIV, pages 445-485.

The never-amended Constitution of 1851 is set forth in the fourth column. For the text of this Constitution in numerical order see Chapter XIII, pages 413-444.

The Constitution of 1776, as it was adopted, is set forth in the fifth column. This Constitution was extensively amended; however, the amendments were tacked onto the end of the Constitution rather than integrated with it. For this reason, these amendments are set forth separately in the sixth column.

For the text of the Constitution of 1776 in numerical order see Chapter XI, pages 369-389. For a chronological listing of the amendments to the Constitution of 1776 see Chapter XII, pages 391-412.