

**SEC. 31A.**<sup>131</sup> Vacant

**SEC. 32.**<sup>132</sup> Vacant.

**SEC. 33.**<sup>133</sup> Vacant.

**SEC. 34.**<sup>134</sup> Vacant.

**SEC. 35.**<sup>135</sup> Vacant.

**SEC. 36.**<sup>136</sup> Vacant.

**SEC. 37.**<sup>137</sup> Vacant.

**SEC. 38.**<sup>138</sup> Vacant.

**SEC. 39.**<sup>139</sup> Vacant.

#### *Part V—Orphans' Court.*

**SEC. 40.**<sup>140</sup> 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.**<sup>141</sup> 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

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 Repealed by Chapter 617, Acts of 1968, ratified Nov. 5, 1968.

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 Repealed by Chapter 523, Acts of 1980, ratified Nov. 4, 1980.

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 Repealed by Chapter 523, Acts of 1980, ratified Nov. 4, 1980.

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 Repealed by Chapter 523, Acts of 1980, ratified Nov. 4, 1980.

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 Repealed by Chapter 523, Acts of 1980, ratified Nov. 4, 1980.

<sup>136</sup> Repealed by Chapter 681, Acts of 1977, ratified Nov. 7, 1978.

<sup>137</sup> 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 Repealed by Chapter 523, Acts of 1980, ratified Nov. 4, 1980.

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 Repealed by Chapter 523, Acts of 1980, ratified Nov. 4, 1980.

<sup>139</sup> 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.

<sup>140</sup> 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.

<sup>141</sup> Amended by Chapter 99, Acts of 1956, ratified Nov. 6, 1956.

and city, respectively, who shall hold his office for four years from the time of his election and until his successor is elected and qualified; he shall be re-eligible, and subject at all times to removal for willful neglect of duty, or misdemeanor in office in the same manner that the Clerks of the Courts are removable. In the event of any vacancy in the office of the Register of Wills, said vacancy shall be filled by the Judges of the Orphans' Court, in which such vacancy occurs, until the next general election for Delegates to the General Assembly when a Register shall be elected to serve for four years thereafter.

#### *Part VI—District Court.*

**SEC. 41A.**<sup>142</sup> The District Court shall have the original jurisdiction prescribed by law. Jurisdiction of the District Court shall be uniform throughout the State; except that in Montgomery County and other counties and the City of Baltimore, the Court may have such jurisdiction over juvenile causes as is provided by law.

**SEC. 41B.**<sup>143</sup> The District Court shall consist of the number of judges prescribed by law. The State shall be divided by law into districts. Each district shall consist of one county or two or more entire and adjoining counties. The number of judges shall be allocated among the districts by law, and there shall be at least one District Court judge resident in each district. In any district containing more than one county, there shall be at least one District Court judge resident in each county in the district. Functional divisions of the District Court may be established in any district.

**SEC. 41C.**<sup>144</sup> Each District Court judge shall devote full time to his judicial duties, shall have the qualifications prescribed by Section 2 of this Article, and shall be a resident of the district in which he holds office. The number of judges for any district may be increased or decreased by the General Assembly from time to time, subject to the requirements of Section 41B of this Article, and any vacancy so created shall be filled as provided in Section 41D of this Article.

**SEC. 41D.**<sup>145</sup> The Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint each judge of the District Court whenever for any reason a vacancy shall exist in the office. All hearings, deliberations, and debate on the confirmation of appointees of the Governor shall be public, and no hearings, deliberations or debate thereon shall be conducted by the Senate or any committee or subcommittee thereof in secret or executive session. Confirmation by the Senate shall be made

<sup>142</sup> Referring to the People's Courts, this section originally was added by Chapter 163, Acts of 1939, ratified Nov. 5, 1940, and amended by Chapter 575, Acts of 1959, ratified Nov. 8, 1960. It was repealed and a new section concerning the District Court was enacted by Chapter 789, Acts of 1969, ratified Nov. 3, 1970, and amended by Chapter 544, Acts of 1976, ratified Nov. 2, 1976.

<sup>143</sup> Added by Chapter 163, Acts of 1939, ratified Nov. 5, 1940. Repealed and a new section enacted by Chapter 789, Acts of 1969, ratified Nov. 3, 1970.

<sup>144</sup> Added by Chapter 373, Acts of 1959, ratified Nov. 8, 1960. Repealed and a new section enacted by Chapter 789, Acts of 1969, ratified Nov. 3, 1970.

<sup>145</sup> Sections 41D through 41I added by Chapter 789, Acts of 1969, ratified Nov. 3, 1970.