

the public interest may require it; but all subsequent regular sessions shall be closed within two months after their commencement, by the agreement of both Houses.

SEC. 11. All male citizens of the State of Maryland in Liberia who then are, or for six weeks next preceding the election, shall have been residents of the settlement or County, in which they shall offer to vote (being of full age,) shall be entitled to vote for members of the General Assembly, and in the event of a confederation, for a representative or representatives to the General Government.

SEC. 12. It shall be the duty of the Legislature every five years, for twenty years after the adoption and ratification of this Constitution, and afterwards at such stated periods as may be fixed by law, to cause a true census to be taken of each town, settlement and county, which are now or may hereafter be established, and apportion the representatives agreeably to the provisions in the second section.

SEC. 13. A majority of each House of the Assembly shall constitute a quorum necessary to do business, but a less number may adjourn from day to day, and compel the attendance of absent members, under such penalties as each House may prescribe. Each House shall be judge of the election returns, and qualifications of its own members, and may adopt its own rules of proceedings, enforce order, and with the concurrence of two-thirds, may expel a member.

SEC. 14. For a longer period than two days, neither House shall adjourn without the consent of the other; both Houses shall always sit in the same town, and each House shall have a negative on the other.

SEC. 15. Any Bill may originate in either House, and may be altered, amended, or rejected by the other, and shall be read on three different days in each House, and having passed both Houses, shall be signed by their respective President and Speaker, and presented to the Governor for his approval. If he approves the same, he shall sign it, if he disapprove it, he shall return it to the House in which it originated, within five days, with his objections; if he fail to return it within the above number of days, or, after it shall have been returned, it again pass both Houses, it shall be a law, without the Governor's approval.

SEC. 16. In going to, and returning from, and during their attendance in their respective Houses, the members of the Assembly shall be privileged from arrest in all cases, except treason, felony, and breach of the peace; nor shall they be questioned or made responsible for any speech, or debate in either House.

SEC. 17. Except when secrecy shall be required, the sittings of each House shall be public; and each House may punish any person not a member, for disorderly or contemptuous behavior in their presence while in session, by fine not exceeding fifty dollars, or imprisonment not exceeding forty-eight hours, for each and every such offence.

SEC. 18. The members of the Assembly shall receive from the State a compensation for their services, to be ascertained by law.

SEC. 19. A Collector or holder of public monies, Assistant or Deputy thereof, shall not be eligible to any office of profit or trust, until he shall have accounted for, and paid over all sums for which he may be accountable; and no person who shall be convicted of having directly or indirectly, given or offered, or received any bribe to procure his own election, or the election of any other person, or who shall be convicted of perjury or other infamous crime, shall be eligible to any office of honor, profit, or trust within the State.

SEC. 20. The Assembly shall have power to make laws in all cases, both civil and criminal, for the good government of the people of the State, not repugnant to the provisions of this Constitution, nor to the Constitution and laws of the General Government which may hereafter be established by confederation. They shall have power to establish Inferior Courts, and prescribe their jurisdiction; create other offices not otherwise provided for; and fix fees of office, and provide for the payment of the same.

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The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers

1856