

resided in the county in which he shall be chosen, one year immediately preceding his election, (unless he shall have been absent on public business of this state or of the United States,) and shall be possessed in his own right of a settled freehold estate of the value of two hundred and fifty dollars, or of taxable property to the amount of five hundred dollars within the county, for one year preceding his election; and whose estate shall, on a reasonable estimation, be competent to the discharge of his just debts, over and above that sum.

§ 9. The house of representatives shall choose their speaker and other officers.

§ 10. They shall have solely the power to impeach all persons who have been or may be in office.

§ 11. No person holding any military commission or other appointment, having any emolument or compensation annexed thereto, under this state or the United States, or either of them, except justices of the inferior court, justices of the peace, and officers of the militia, nor any person who has had charge of public moneys belonging to the state, unaccounted for and unpaid, or who has not paid all legal taxes or contributions to the government required of him, shall have a seat in either branch of the general assembly; nor shall any senator or representative be elected to any office or appointment by the legislature, having any emoluments or compensation annexed thereto, during the time for which he shall have been elected, with the above exception, unless he shall decline accepting his seat, by notice to the executive within twenty days after he shall have been elected; nor shall any member, after having taken his seat, be eligible to any of the aforesaid offices or appointments during the time for which he shall have been elected.

§ 12. The meeting of the general assembly shall be annually, on the second Tuesday in January, until such day of meeting be altered by law: a majority of each branch shall be authorized to proceed to business; but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and compel the attendance of their members in such manner as each house may prescribe.

§ 13. Each house shall be the judges of the elections, returns, and qualifications of its own members; with powers to expel or punish, by censuring, fining, and imprisoning, or either, for disorderly behaviour; and may expel any person convicted of any felonious or infamous offence; each house may punish by imprisonment, during session, any person not a member, who shall be guilty of disrespect by any disorderly or contemptuous behaviour in its presence, or who, during session, shall threaten harm to the body or estate of any member, for any thing said or done in either house, or who shall assault any of them therefor; or who shall assault or arrest any witness in going to or returning from, or who shall rescue any person arrested by order of either house.

§ 14. No senator or representative shall be liable to be arrested during his attendance on the general assembly, or for ten days previous to its sitting, or for ten days after the rising thereof, except for treason, felony, or breach of the peace; nor shall any member be liable to answer for any thing spoken in debate in either house, in any court or place elsewhere; but shall nevertheless be bound to answer for perjury, bribery, or corruption.

§ 15. Each house shall keep a journal of its proceedings, and publish