

and incidental expenses as the General Assembly may by law allow; shall report to the General Assembly within thirty days after the commencement of its first session under this Constitution, a uniform system of Free Public Schools, and shall perform such other duties pertaining to his office as may from time to time be prescribed by law.

Sec. 2. There shall be a State Board of Education, consisting of the Governor, the Lieutenant-Governor, the Speaker of the House of Delegates, and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, which Board shall perform such duties as the General Assembly may direct.

Sec. 3. There shall be in each county such number of School Commissioners as the State Superintendent of Public Instruction shall deem necessary, who shall be appointed by the State Board of Education; shall hold office for four years, and shall perform such duties and receive such compensation as the General Assembly or State Superintendent may direct; the School Commissioners of Baltimore city shall remain as at present constituted, and shall be appointed, as at present, by the Mayor and City Council, subject to such alterations and amendments as may be made from time to time by the General Assembly, or the said Mayor and City Council.

Sec. 4. The General Assembly, at its first session after the adoption of this Constitution, shall provide a uniform system of Free Public Schools, by which a school shall be kept open and supported free of expense for tuition in each school district, for at least six months in each year; and in case of a failure on the part of the General Assembly so to provide, the system reported to it by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, shall become the system of

Free Public Schools of the State; *Provided*, That the report of the State Superintendent shall be in conformity with the provisions of this Constitution, and such system shall be subject to such alterations, conformable to this Article, as the General Assembly may from time to time enact.

Sec. 5. The General Assembly shall levy at each regular session after the adoption of this Constitution an annual tax of not less than ten cents on each one hundred dollars of taxable property throughout the State, for the support of the Free Public Schools, which tax shall be collected at the same time and by the same agents as the general State levy; and shall be paid into the Treasury of the State, and shall be distributed under such regulations as may be prescribed by law, among the counties and the city of Baltimore, in proportion to their respective population between the ages of five and twenty years: *Provided*, That the General Assembly shall not levy any additional school tax upon particular counties, unless such county express by popular vote its desire for such tax; the city of Baltimore shall provide for its additional school tax as at present, or as may hereafter be provided by the General Assembly, or by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore.

Sec. 6. The General Assembly shall further provide by law, at its first session after the adoption of this Constitution, a fund for the support of the Free Public Schools of the State, by the imposition of an annual tax of not less than five cents on each one hundred dollars of taxable property throughout the State, the proceeds of which tax shall be known as the Public School Fund, and shall be invested by the Treasurer, together with its annual