

county shall on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in the month of November, in the year eighteen hundred and sixty-five, and every two years thereafter, elect a wreck master for said county, whose duties and compensation shall be the same as are now or may be hereafter prescribed by law; the term of office of said wreck master shall commence on the first Monday of January next succeeding his election, and a vacancy in said office shall be filled by the county commissioners of said county for the residue of the term.

Sec. 9. The general assembly may provide by law for the election or appointment of such other officers as may be required, and are not herein provided for and prescribe their tenure of office, powers and duties.

ARTICLE VIII.

EDUCATION.

Section 1. The governor shall, within thirty days after the ratification by the people of this constitution, appoint, subject to the confirmation of the senate, at its first session thereafter, a State superintendent of public instruction, who shall hold his office for four years and until his successor shall have been appointed and shall have qualified. He shall receive an annual salary of twenty-five hundred dollars, and such additional sum for travelling 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 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 interest until such time as said fund shall, by its own increase and any additions which may be made to it from time to time, together with the present school fund, amount to six millions of dollars, when the tax of ten cents in the hundred dollars, authorized by the preceding section, may be discontinued in whole or in part, as the general assembly may direct; the principal fund of six millions hereby provided, shall remain forever inviolate as the free public school fund of the State, and the annual interest of said school fund shall be disbursed for educational purposes only, as may be prescribed by law. ●

ARTICLE IX.

MILITIA AND MILITARY AFFAIRS.

Section 1. The militia shall be composed of all able-bodied male citizens, residents of this State, being eighteen years of age, and under the age of forty-five years, who shall be enrolled in the militia, and perform mil