

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 a law, and have full effect as if enacted by the General Assembly; provided, that the report of the State Superintendent shall be in conformity with the provisions of this Constitution.

Sec. 6. The General Assembly shall levy at its first 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 school tax as at present.

Sec 7. 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 common schools of the State, by the imposition of an annual tax of a not less annual amount than three hundred thousand dollars, the proceeds of which tax shall be known as the 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, after which time the principal shall remain forever inviolate, and shall only be further increased by such means as the Legislature may determine; and the annual interest of said school fund shall be disbursed for educational purposes only, as may be prescribed by law.

J. M. CUSHING, Chairman,

B. A. CUNNINGHAM,

T. P. JONES,

A. C. GREENE,

J. L. RIDGELY,

E. J. HENKLE,

T. J. HODSON.

Which was read the first time.