

A thorough and efficient system of free public schools shall be maintained by the General Assembly. (Article 8, section 1, Constitution.)

The Legislature is required to pass such laws as will promote volunteer militia organizations, and will afford them effectual encouragement. (Article 9, section 1, Constitution.)

Either branch of the Legislature can require the Governor to report the petitions, recommendations, and reasons which influenced him in the granting of pardons.— (Article 2, section 20, Constitution.)

New counties, with the consent of the voters in the sections affected, may be organized and, with same consent, county seats may be located, or removed, by the Legislature. Before such formation shall take place, the consent of the majority of legal voters residing within the limits proposed to be formed into said new county, must be obtained. If said new county is formed out of two or more portions of counties, the consent of a majority of legal voters of such parts of said counties, respectively, shall be required; nor shall the lines of any county be changed without the consent of a majority of the legal voters residing within the district which, under said proposed change, would form a part of a county different from that to which it belonged prior to said change. All new counties must contain at least four hundred square miles of area and ten thousand white inhabitants. No change in county lines can be made that will reduce its area below four hundred square miles and its white inhabitants below ten thousand. (Article 13, section 1, Constitution.)

POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY UNDER THE LAWS.

The oath of office required for members of the Legislature shall be administered in the Senate by a Senator to the President and by him to the Senators; in the House a member shall administer the oath to the Speaker who shall administer the oath to the remaining members and to the officers of the House. (Article 68, section 3, P. G. L., Maryland Code.)

Whenever the General Assembly shall meet, it shall not be necessary for any officer of the preceding General Assembly to be present, except the chief clerk, reading