

Art. 11. That Annapolis be the place of meeting of the Legislature; and the Legislature ought not to be convened, or held at any other place but from evident necessity.

Art. 12. That for redress of grievances, and for amending, strengthening and for preserving the laws, the Legislature ought to be frequently convened.

Art. 13. That every man hath a right to petition the Legislature for the redress of grievances in a peaceful and orderly manner.

Art. 14. That no aid, charge, tax, burthen or fees ought to be rated, or levied, under any pretence, without the consent of the Legislature.

The question of what rights in general the state roads commission can exercise over corporations using the state highways in carrying out their corporate purposes, mooted but not decided. *State Roads Commission v. Postal Tel. Co.*, 123 Md. 75.

This article referred to in construing art. 15 of Declaration of Rights—see notes thereto. *State v. C. & P. R. R. Co.*, 40 Md. 63 (dissenting opinion).

Art. 15. That the levying of taxes by the poll is grievous and oppressive and ought to be prohibited; that paupers ought not to be assessed for the support of the Government; that the General Assembly shall, by uniform rules, provide for separate assessment of land and classification and sub-classifications of improvements on land and personal property, as it may deem proper; and all taxes thereafter provided to be levied by the State for the support of the general State Government, and by the counties and by the City of Baltimore for their respective purposes, shall be uniform as to land within the taxing district, and uniform within the class or sub-class of improvements on land and personal property which the respecting taxing powers may have directed to be subjected to the tax levy; yet fines, duties or taxes may properly and justly be imposed, or laid with a political view for the good government and benefit of the community.¹

Validity of taxing laws.

The act of 1912, ch. 688, known as "The Special Paving Tax" act for Baltimore city, held not to violate this article. The constitutionality of the act of 1912 is not affected by the fact that the proceeds of the paving tax go into a fund not raised to pay for improvements specifically benefiting the property assessed. Where the legislature fixes the amount of the tax, no notice is necessary, and in the absence of clear evidence that the tax is arbitrary or oppressive, the legislative action is conclusive upon the courts. *Leser v. Wagner*, 120 Md. 673 (affirmed in *Wagner v. Leser*, 60 L. Ed. 230).

Art. 81, sec. 229, *et seq.*, of the An. Code, do not violate this article, although under this article taxes are levied *in personam*, and not *in rem*; the tax upon distilled spirits is not on the property but upon the owner—see art. 81, sec. 229, *et seq.*, and notes thereto. *Hannis Distilling Co. v. Baltimore*, 114 Md. 678. And see *Hannis Distilling Co. v. Baltimore*, 216 U. S. 285; *Carstairs v. Cochran*, 95 Md. 500 (affirmed in 193 U. S. 10); *Monticello Co. v. Baltimore*, 90 Md. 425.

The act of 1910, ch. 413—see art. 72, sec. 81, of the An. Code—imposing a tax of one cent a bushel upon oysters unloaded from vessels at the place where the oysters are to be no further shipped in vessels, held not to violate this article; an inspection charge laid in the honest exercise of the police power is within the terms of this article. *Foote v. Stanley*, 117 Md. 338. (Reversed by the supreme court of the United States on the ground that the act of 1910 violated the Federal Constitution. *Foote v. Stanley*, 58 L. Ed. 698.) See art. 72, sec. 81, An. Code.

An act taxing coal mining companies in Maryland, held to be in conflict with this article, since the tax provided for was a direct and specific tax on coal. Although

¹ Thus amended by the act of 1914, ch. 390, ratified November 2, 1915.