

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION OF MARYLAND

CONSTITUTION OF 1867

PROPOSED CONSTITUTION OF 1968

Art. 13. That every man hath a right to petition the Legislature for the redress of grievances in a peaceable 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.

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 the separate assessment, classification and sub-classification of land, 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 within each class or sub-class of land, improvements on land and personal property which the respective 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.

Art. 16. That sanguinary Laws ought to be avoided as far as it is consistent with the safety of the State; and no Law to inflict cruel and unusual pains and penalties ought to be made in any case, or at any time, hereafter.

Art. 17. That retrospective Laws, punishing acts committed before the existence of such Laws, and by them only declared

days. The governor may convene a special session of the General Assembly at any time and shall convene a special session upon the written request of three-fifths of all the members of each house. The governor may, on extraordinary occasions, convene the Senate by proclamation, stating the purpose for which he has convened it. The presiding officer of the Senate and the presiding officer of the House of Delegates, acting concurrently, may convene a special session of the General Assembly at any time.

See Section 1.01, Freedom of Expression, p. 3.

Section 6.01. Power to Tax.

Taxes shall be imposed only for public purposes and only by the elected representatives of the people exercising legislative powers.

Section 6.03. Assessments.

Assessments with respect to any tax shall be made pursuant to uniform rules and pursuant to classifications of property, taxpayers, and events prescribed by law, which classes shall include agricultural property as defined by the General Assembly by law.

Section 6.04. Equalization.

The State shall prescribe and administer uniform rules and methods for determining property tax assessments. State funds distributed to units of local government on the basis of assessments of property shall be determined by assessments equalized among those units, as prescribed by the General Assembly by law.

Section 6.05. Exemptions.

Exemptions with respect to any tax imposed by the State shall be made pursuant to uniform rules within classes of property, taxpayers, or events.

Section 1.11. Unusual Punishments.

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted. Conviction of crime shall not work corruption of blood or forfeiture of estate.

Section 1.15. Ex Post Facto Laws.

No bill of attainder, or ex post facto law, or law impairing the obligation of contracts