

COMPARISON OF CONSTITUTIONS

PROPOSED CONSTITUTION OF 1968

CONSTITUTION OF 1867

**Section 2.12. Suspension.**

A law enacted by the General Assembly subject to referendum shall be suspendible unless it is passed by the affirmative vote of three-fifths of all the members of each house and contains a section declaring it to be an emergency law and necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety. If one-half the required signatures are filed during the thirty days after a bill becomes law, the law, if suspendible, shall be suspended thereby through the sixtieth day after it became law. If the remaining required signatures are filed by that sixtieth day, the law shall continue to be suspended.

**Section 2.13. Effect of Referendum.**

A referred law shall be repealed thirty days after it has been rejected by a majority of those voting on it if the number voting on the question is not less than one-fourth the number voting in the election. A suspended law which is not repealed shall take effect thirty days after the referendum or at a later time if prescribed in the law.

Art. XVI, sec. 2. No law enacted by the General Assembly shall take effect until the first day of June next after the session at which it may be passed, unless it contain a Section declaring such law an emergency law and necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, and passed upon a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly; provided, however, that said period of suspension may be extended as provided in Section 3(b) hereof. If before said first day of June there shall have been filed with the Secretary of the State a petition to refer to a vote of the people any law or part of a law capable of referendum, as in this Article provided, the same shall be referred by the Secretary of State to such vote, and shall not become a law or take effect until thirty days after its approval by a majority of the electors voting thereon at the next ensuing election held throughout the State for Members of the House of Representatives of the United States. An emergency law shall remain in force notwithstanding such petition, but shall stand repealed thirty days after having been rejected by a majority of the qualified electors voting thereon; provided, however, that no measure creating or abolishing any office, or changing the salary, term or duty of any officer, or granting any franchise or special privilege, or creating any vested right or interest, shall be enacted as an emergency law. . . .

Art. XVI, sec. 5. (a) The General Assembly shall provide for furnishing the voters of the State the text of all measures to be voted upon by the people; provided, that until otherwise provided by law the same shall be published in the manner prescribed by Article XIV of the Constitution for the publication of proposed Constitutional Amendments.

(b) All laws referred under the provisions of this Article shall be submitted separately on the ballots to the voters of the people, but if containing more than two hundred words, the full text shall not be printed on the official ballots, but the Secretary of State shall prepare and submit a ballot title of each such measure in such form as to present the purpose of said measure concisely and intelligently. The ballot title may be distinct from the legislative title, but in any case the legislative