

ordinate to the single constitutional issue you must confront. Is the attainment of twenty-one years of age a just, logical, pertinent or valid qualification for enfranchisement?

In Article II, tightening the referendum procedure and eliminating certain legislation from referendum petition are desirable. This portion removes ambiguities which clouded the 1867 Constitution yet guarantees the important right of referendum most effectively in terms of Maryland's present and projected population. There is one mechanical difficulty with Section 2.08, however, which could cause trouble. In cases where there is a very short space of time between the date a bill becomes law and the date the bill becomes effective as law, the referendum petition could not be completed in time to stay the law's becoming operative. This would mean that a law, passed by a simple legislative majority and made effective immediately, would have to be implemented by the executive branch prior to referendum vote and would remain in force until 30 days after a possible defeat.

The point is that the implementation of some laws is costly and we have always, and properly I believe, felt that if a law to be questioned by a referendum vote is to be effective while that vote is awaited, it must be passed by a three-fifths majority of both houses of the Legislature. Therefore, I suggest that the Constitution provide that any bill which is to become effective less than sixty days from the date that bill becomes law must be enacted by a three-fifths majority of both houses.

Article III defines the scope and powers of the legislative branch. I support the retention of the bicameral form, particularly for the reasons expressed in Points 2, 3, 4, and 9 of the comments to the draft Constitution.

Section 3.03 of the draft instrument, providing for mandatory re-districting and reapportionment, will assure fair and reasonable representation on a continuing basis.

Section 3.12 of the draft Constitution enables the General Assembly to convene special sessions on its own initiative. I endorse this measure as a logical and reasonable means to strengthen legislative authority.

However, I seriously question the draft's mandate to convene each regular session of the General Assembly on the third Wednesday of January. As Governor-elect, I was acutely aware that this time factor severely inhibits review of the previous administration's budgetary recommendations and preparation of a legislative program. For all