

are not a significant number of these in any ten year period, and by and large the House and Senate do not conduct their business by the grand inquest basis, but upon the full house and committee basis; so we have provided therefore for the attendance of witnesses, the testimony of witnesses, and the submission of documents.

You will note that we have dropped out a sentence from the Constitutional Commission draft having to do with fair treatment. We believe that such is implicit in the section generally. We believe the constitutional guaranties of the federal government will provide this as well, and also we believed at the time we wrote this that the Committee on Personal Rights and Preamble would be submitting language which would take care of the situation.

The section providing that each house may punish a member for disorderly or disrespectful behavior continues. The majority method is changed here and the expulsion. In brief, this is the same except that the constitutional majority is no longer required.

Turning to the next section on "Quorum," "A majority of all the members of each house shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business in each house, but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day."

We dropped out the language that members may be compelled to attend, because we felt it was anachronistic and other proposals would be accomplished by rule which would accomplish the same thing.

Turning to the section on "Form of Laws," I would say that there is going to be an amendment offered to section 3.15 to take care of the exception which the Committee on State Finance and Taxation is going to provide for the supplementary budget bill. By and large section 3.15 follows existing Maryland Constitution requirements that the style of law shall be enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, and, of course, the legislature can enact no law except by bill.

"Every law enacted by the General Assembly shall embrace only one subject, which shall be described in its title. No law nor section of law shall be revived or amended by reference to its title or section only, nor shall any law be construed by reason of its title to grant powers or confer rights which are not expressly contained in the body of the act."

I might say that we spent quite some time in the Committee to eliminate those cases that go to the Court of Appeals which challenge laws on the basis that they have not been completely described in the title. However, after considerable discussion it was decided that we would continue with the traditional Maryland practice of requiring that the title be as descriptive as possible.

Section 3.16, "Consideration of Bills," is somewhat different from the present arrangement. It is the same with respect to the first sentence: "A bill may originate in either house of the General Assembly and be altered, amended, or rejected by the other."

Here is where we now depart from present practice.

"Except during the first four days of a special session, no vote on final passage of a bill shall be taken until the bill shall be prepared in final form. No vote on final passage of a bill shall be taken until the fifth calendar day after its introduction in the house of origin and until the second calendar day after it reaches the second house, except upon the affirmative vote of three-fifths of all the members present and voting, a quorum being present, of the house in which suspension is requested."

Traditionally the General Assembly operates by considering a bill on the first, second, and third reading. We have decided to eliminate this and to attempt to provide the guaranties for public scrutiny and knowledge by providing that the bill must be in the legislature for a designated number of days, so that it will not be possible under 3.16, as it has been presented, to suspend the rules as can be done now, and really pass the bill both in the House and the Senate on a single day.

We feel that the provisions holding the bill in both the House and the Senate for a minimum number of days accomplishes more aptly the purpose of the requirement, which is presently in our Constitution: A bill shall have three readings in each house and the various time sequence required on different days, unless there be a suspension of the rules.

We have also permitted in line 42 of section 3.16 that: "The General Assembly may provide by law that bills shall be continued for two consecutive regular sessions within a term of the General Assembly."

This would mean during the first year of the term of the General Assembly if a