

by your use of the word "authorize" the Committee does not intend that it shall be a direct authorization but will permit the county, or Baltimore City by its own enabling act to do that which is authorized.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is the way in which I used the word.

DELEGATE CLAGETT: That is where I think Delegate Hanson is failing to appreciate what you were trying to say.

THE CHAIRMAN: Then I regret the confusion.

Delegate Marion.

DELEGATE MARION: Mr. Chairman, could I direct a question on another subject to the sponsor of the amendment, Delegate Hanson?

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair has completely lost track of where we are in the debate and must say yes.

Delegate Hanson, will you yield to a question?

DELEGATE HANSON: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Marion.

DELEGATE MARION: Could you tell me whether there is any language in your amendment which affects or restricts in any way the time for holding elections for officials of a popularly elected representative regional government, if any should be created under the language of section 7.10 of this Constitution?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Hanson.

DELEGATE HANSON: I know of no language in this amendment which would so restrict, and it is not the intention of this amendment so to restrict. If there is an instrument of government of such a regional body, it could make the determination in the same manner as the county, or that determination could be made by the law establishing the regional government or by subsequent law applying to all regional governments.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Marion.

DELEGATE MARION: I have nothing further.

THE CHAIRMAN: Very well.

Delegate Needle, do you know whether your amendment is printed?

Delegate Barrick?

DELEGATE BARRICK: Mr. Chairman, I am a little confused myself, and I was wondering if I might direct one question to Delegate Hanson.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Hanson, would you yield to a question?

DELEGATE HANSON: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Barrick.

DELEGATE BARRICK: By your use of "general law" in line 11, do you mean that the General Assembly could act in an affirmative manner on a county-by-county basis dealing with this subject matter?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Hanson.

DELEGATE HANSON: Not in a fashion that would be self-executing, as I understand the term as it has been used elsewhere in the constitution as we have adopted it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Barrick.

DELEGATE BARRICK: But if we took the word "general" out, then you agree that they could deal with it self-executing on a county-by-county basis?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Hanson.

DELEGATE HANSON: I am fearful if we took out the term "general public" or "public general", whichever way it occurs, that we would be left with an ambiguity which the sponsors of this amendment do not intend. This could, since this does not appear in the local government section, possibly lead to opening the door again to the old local legislative practice of permitting the General Assembly to pass a local law applying to a specific county, and that is definitely not our intention.

THE CHAIRMAN: For what purpose does Delegate Frederick rise?

DELEGATE FREDERICK: I would like to ask one question of the sponsor.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Hanson, will you yield to another question?

DELEGATE HANSON: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Frederick.

DELEGATE FREDERICK: I ask the question unless otherwise provided by public general law or by instrument of government, can the public general law override the charter provision of the city or the county?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Hanson.

DELEGATE HANSON: Yes. A public general law would override a charter provision which was contrary to public general law.