

effect, and there is not so far a stated date on which laws passed by the General Assembly shall take effect, and as long as we have reasonably agreed that there shall be as long as a five-month session, then it is perfectly possible for the General Assembly to say the law shall take effect upon signature by the governor. This happens to United States laws.

I think this a very significant substantive difference.

The other difference that is not included in here is in terms of the percentage of those who vote on the issue. Again the Committee felt very strongly that there should be not only a sizable indication of objection in terms of petitioning a bill, but there should also be a sizable display on the part of the voters and, therefore, it required that twenty-five per cent of those who voted on the day the issue was on the ballot had to vote on the issue.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Raley.

DELEGATE RALEY: I would like to direct inquiry to the Style and Drafting Committee chairman.

After getting used to this committee report, it seems better all the time, but there is still one problem, in my mind, at least as concerns local government. I am still not at all sure whether this does or does not affect local legislation, laws passed by local counties. If it does or if it does not I think some changes will be needed.

Therefore, I would like to direct this inquiry, that if there is this problem and it shows up later, can Style and Drafting make provisions to clarify when they have it in Committee?

DELEGATE KOSS: Delegate Raley, in our memo to the introduction this refers only to public general laws as passed by the legislature. This is not to say we meant to exclude local legislation or anything else, but that at such time as the local government provisions are considered, regarding local government and the Legislative Article in terms of what the powers of the General Assembly are, we will at that point consider the whole question of local legislation.

Committee Recommendation S&E-1 does not apply to either local laws passed by the General Assembly or acts passed by local governing bodies.

DELEGATE RALEY: Chairman Koss, it says here people reserve to themselves

the power known as the referendum. I think that includes all people, and if it does include local government and the people acting on local government laws, then the provision of how they handle it would seem to have to be different. I just raise that question.

THE CHAIRMAN: Local government recommendations have specifically built-in provisions, as I understand it. Delegate Henderson.

DELEGATE HENDERSON: Mr. Chairman, may I suggest to Delegate Raley that the Hostetter Amendment, which has been revised so as to read "all laws of the General Assembly," might answer his question about local government.

I have another question that appears to me on page 2 of Committee Recommendation S&E-1, line 48, something seems to be left out there. I am not clear what it is. I would like to know about it. It ends with "if the law is not so repealed then"—that is the end of the section.

DELEGATE KOSS: The amendment offered this afternoon adopting section 6b was stricken. At the time that amendment was offered, it was indicated by the mover that there would have to be an editorial change. If the law is not so repealed the law which has been suspended shall take effect 30 days after referendum or as provided therein, whichever is latest. Does that answer your question?

DELEGATE HENDERSON: I think so.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think so.

Delegate Gleason.

DELEGATE GLEASON: Mr. Chairman, I find much in this amendment to credit. I think it has reduced the language to simplicity. I think there is one glaring error, one pointed out by Chairman Koss with respect to suspension provisions in the petition in the legislation. As the delegates recall we have already provided at least by one vote that it is entirely possible for the General Assembly to be in session for a period of 150 days, which is five months. If this situation should prevail at any time, the right of people to gather their petitions in order to have a law suspended would be seriously curtailed if that law were in effect in that fifth month or by June 1.

I am wondering under the circumstances, I also note, of course, that this amendment has deleted section 1 of the proposal, which