

appropriation bills. The amendment reads as follows:

"The governor shall have the power to disapprove of any item or items of any bills making appropriations of money embracing district items, and the part or parts of the bill approved shall be law, and the item or items of appropriation disapproved shall be void unless repassed according to rules on limitations prescribed for the passage of other bills over the executive veto."<sup>18</sup>

It should be recalled that under Article III, Sections 52(6) and 52(8), the governor has no veto power over the "budget bill" so the item veto applies only to

<sup>18</sup> Md. Laws of 1890, ch. 194, ratified Nov. 3, 1891.

supplementary appropriation bills.

Under a literal reading of Section 17 it does not appear that the governor has the power to reduce items in supplementary appropriation bills themselves, but only has the power to approve or disapprove the whole item. As a matter of practice, however, the governors have reduced the amount of items in these bills and no successful judicial attack on this action has been found.

It is recommended that the constitution should make clear that the governor can reduce the amount of items in supplementary appropriation bills and that the question of whether the governor should have the power to veto the "budget bill" be left open for consideration by the Committee on State Finance and Taxation.