

implemented by the passage of such revenue measures as shall produce the moneys necessary for the treasury to meet the appropriations made by the budget bill.⁹

CONCLUSIONS

The budget bill system would seem to apply to appropriations for either the legislature or the judiciary, subject to the following qualifications: (1) the General Assembly may amend the governor's bill by increasing or diminishing the items therein relating to the legislature, but only by increasing the items therein relating to the judiciary; (2) the salary or compensation of any public officer cannot be decreased during his term of office.¹⁰

Except as otherwise specified in Art. III, sec. 52, the General Assembly may not alter the said bill except to strike out or reduce items therein.¹¹

⁹ *Dorsey v. Petrott*, 178 Md. 230, 13 A.2d 630 (1940).

¹⁰ MD. CONST. art. III, §52(6).

¹¹ *Ibid.*

As to appropriations for educational purposes, the Constitution, in the same section provides:

"The General Assembly shall not amend the Budget Bill so as to affect either the obligations of the State under Section 34 of Article 3 of the Constitution, or the provisions made by the laws of the State for the establishment and maintenance of a system of public schools or the payment of any salaries required to be paid by the State of Maryland by the Constitution thereof. . . ."¹²

Practically speaking, the governor may exercise a good deal of control over the other two branches and the various state agencies and offices, but the General Assembly always has the ultimate power to appropriate, by means of supplementary budget bills (to create additional funds) or decreasing the governor's bill (to reduce the requested funds).

¹² *Ibid.*