

IMPEACHMENT POWERS OF STATE LEGISLATURES

outcome of impeachment proceedings. It is generally held that an official is suspended while impeachment proceedings are pending.²¹

In conclusion, it would appear that the impeachment power of state legislatures is conferred, not inherent. If the power to impeach is not conferred by the state constitution, it is denied the legislature. Given a general grant of impeachment power, there is authority for the proposition that grounds for

impeachment and the procedure to be followed become matters largely to be determined in the discretion of the legislature. General grants of impeachment power, however, have caused numerous problems as set forth above. Those officeholders subject to impeachment power are usually determined by the wording of constitutional provisions relating to impeachment, but there would seem to be no doubt that high constitutional officers, especially those elected by the people at large, are subject to impeachment even if their offices are not specifically enumerated in the constitution.

²¹ See cases collected in 30 A.L.R. 1149 (1924).