

Upon inquiry to the secretary of state, it was learned what person or group of persons was responsible for instituting the petitions on several of these questions. The Potomac River Compact was placed on referendum largely through the efforts of a group headed by former Senator Walter Dorsey of St. Mary's County. Amendments to the unemployment insurance laws were placed on referendum as a result of certain labor organizations. Woodrow F. Strong of the AFL-CIO headed up this movement. The Municipal Court legislation was on referendum as a result of a movement headed by James H. Pollack of Baltimore City. In that same year the

League of Women Voters, under the direction of Mrs. E. J. Satterthwaite, filed petitions to place congressional re-districting on referendum (Article 33). James H. Pollack and Clark A. Robertson headed the drive to place the savings and loan bill (corporations) on referendum. In 1964 the bill pertaining to the Interracial Commission was placed on referendum through the efforts of a group known as the Maryland Petitions Commission, Incorporated. Samuel Setta of Easton and Delegate C. Maurice Weidemeyer of Annapolis acted as the coordinators for this group.

INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM PROVISIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

At the turn of the century, much interest was shown in direct government because of certain abuses which arose in state legislatures. Powerful interest groups had taken control of legislative bodies in some states. During this period provisions for initiative, referendum, and recall began to appear in state constitutions.

Initiative refers to measures proposed by a petition of the electors and later voted on at the polls. There are two types of initiative, direct and indirect. Direct initiative refers to measures placed on the ballot by a mandatory process without action by the legislature. Indirect initiative refers to measures sent to the legislature for its consideration before being placed on the ballot. If the legislature approves the measure, it becomes law in the normal fashion. If the legislature disapproves, the measure is placed on the ballot and may be rejected or voted into law by the electors. If the legislature alters the proposal, both the original and the altered versions are placed on the ballot and either may be voted into law.

Referendum refers to measures originated by the legislature and placed upon the ballot for approval or rejection by the electors. Such measures may be placed on the ballot by direction of the legislature or by a petition of the electors.

Recall authorizes voters to remove an elected, or (in some states) appointed, official by an adverse popular vote.

About half the states have adopted one or more of the devices of initiative, referendum, or recall. Twenty states provide for both initiative and referendum. Maryland and New Mexico are the only states which provide for referendum alone. In states which have adopted initiative and referendum, constitutional provisions are often common to both. Generally the constitutions provide expressly that these powers are invoked by petition, but a few states leave the method of invoking them to be provided by law. Alaska, the first state since 1918 to adopt a provision for initiative and referendum, provides that it be invoked by application, signed by