

vail. But nothing herein shall in any manner affect the provisions of Section 34 of Article III of the Constitution or of any laws heretofore or hereafter passed in pursuance thereof, or be construed as preventing the Governor from calling extraordinary sessions of the Legislature, as provided by Section 16 of Article II, or as preventing the Legislature at such extraordinary sessions from considering any emergency appropriation or appropriations.

If any item of any appropriation bill passed under the provisions of this Section shall be held invalid upon any ground, such invalidity shall not affect the legality of the bill or of any other item of such bill or bills.\*

SEC. 53. No person shall be incompetent, as a witness, on account of race or color, unless hereafter so declared by Act of the General Assembly.

SEC. 54. No county of this State shall contract any debt, or obligation in the construction of any railroad, canal, or other work of internal improvement, nor give, or loan its credit to or in aid of any association, or corporation, unless authorized by an Act of the General Assembly, which shall be published for two months before the next election for members of the House of Delegates in the newspapers published in such county, and shall also be approved by a majority of all the members elected to each House of the General Assembly, at its next session after said election.

SEC. 55. The General Assembly shall pass no law suspending the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus*.

SEC. 56. The General Assembly shall have power to pass all such laws as may be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the powers vested by this Constitution, in any department or office of the Government, and the duties imposed upon them thereby.

SEC. 57. The legal rate of interest shall be *six per cent per annum*, unless otherwise provided by the General Assembly.

SEC. 58. The Legislature, at its first session after the ratification of this Constitution, shall provide by law for State and municipal taxation upon the revenues accruing from business done in the State by all foreign corporations.

SEC. 59. The office of "State Pension Commissioner" is hereby abolished; and the Legislature shall pass no law creating such office, or establishing any general pension system within this State.

\*\*SEC. 60. The General Assembly of Maryland shall have the power to provide by suitable general enactment (a) for

\* Thus amended by Chapter 159, 1916, ratified November 7, 1916.

\*\* Thus added by Chapter 453, 1924, ratified November 2, 1925.