

members of the House of Delegates, and duplicates thereof, directly to the Governor; and the several clerks aforesaid shall return to the Governor, within ten days after said election, the number of ballots cast for or against the Constitution and the number of blank ballots; and the Governor, upon receiving the returns from the judges of election, or the clerks as aforesaid, and ascertaining the aggregate vote throughout the State, shall, by his proclamation, make known the same; and if a majority of the votes cast shall be for the adoption of this Constitution, it shall go into effect on Saturday, the fifth day of October, eighteen hundred and sixty-seven.

ARTICLE XVI.*

THE REFERENDUM.

SECTION 1. (a) The people reserve to themselves power known as The Referendum, by petition to have submitted to the registered voters of the State, to approve or reject at the polls, any Act, or part of any Act of the General Assembly, if approved by the Governor, or, if passed by the General Assembly over the veto of the Governor.

(b) The provisions of this Article shall be self-executing; provided that additional legislation in furtherance thereof and not in conflict therewith may be enacted.

SEC. 2. No law enacted by the General Assembly shall take effect until the first day of June next after the session at which it may be passed, unless it contain a section declaring such law an emergency law and necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, and passed upon a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly; provided, however, that said period of suspension may be extended as provided in Section 3 (b) hereof. If before said first day of June there shall have been filed with the Secretary of the State a petition to refer to a vote of the people any law or part of a law capable of referendum, as in this Article provided, the same shall be referred by the Secretary of State to such vote, and shall not become a law or take effect until thirty days after its approval by a majority of the electors voting thereon at the next ensuing election held throughout the State for Members of the House of Representatives of the United States. An emergency law shall remain in force notwithstanding

* Added by Chapter 673, 1914, ratified November 2, 1915.