

1 and final passage. In the second house, three additional
2 checks of the same nature appear. If changes are made in
3 the second house, there is a further check in the house
4 of origin and even in some cases by conference committee
5 action.

6 Should the proposed legislation pass, there are other
7 checks still available. The governor has a veto and the
8 legislature a chance to reconsider and accept or override
9 his action. Moreover, in most cases, the law is subject
10 to popular referendum and to judicial review. If the
11 pressures of public opinion and interest groups be added
12 to all these, we have a formidable array of obstructions
13 indeed.

14 How essential is it that all these checks be preserved?
15 Specifically, how effective is the two-house system in
16 preventing "hasty and ill-considered" legislation? Objective
17 tests are difficult to apply. But there are some comparisons
18 that can be made and some related data available -- enough
19 to raise serious doubts as to the value of bicameralism as
20 a desirable or necessary check to legislation. In a study
21 of committee procedure in the Maryland General Assembly some