

1 the use of referendum, if to get an issue before the
2 voters is very stringent, then you might as well not have
3 a provision at all, because as an instrument of
4 Government it is proven not to be usable if the numerical
5 number of required petition signers is very high. The
6 evidence is not very good that those states that have
7 higher restrictions than Maryland, and most of the
8 16 states do have higher restrictions percentagewise than
9 Maryland, but in every case they are the far western,
10 very little populous states that have higher percentages
11 and they even have such a provision. Metropolitan
12 states for the most part do not have referendum and those
13 that do do not have very high requirements, with two
14 exceptions, so the real issue is, is this a practical
15 instrument of Government and if so, then the limitations
16 about have to be within reason, if it is to be utilized,
17 so the real question is whether or not it should be an
18 instrument provided for at all and if so, then reasonable
19 requirements should be permitted for the use, but it is
20 ridiculous to have it in the Constitution apparently when
21 looking at other states' experiences, you are going to