CONSTITUTION OF 1867	PROPOSED CONSTITUTION OF 1968

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 An emergency law shall remain in force notwithstanding such petition, but shall stand repealed thirty days after having been rejected by a majority of the qualified electors voting thereon; provided, however, that no measure creating or abolishing any office, or changing the salary, term or duty of any officer, or granting any franchise or special privilege, or creating any vested right or interest, shall be enacted as an emergency law. No law making any appropriation for maintaining the State Government, or for maintaining or aiding any public institution, not exceeding the next previous appropriation for the same purpose, shall be subject to rejection or repeal under this Section. The increase in any such appropriation for maintaining or aiding any public institution shall only take effect as in the case of other laws, and such increase or any part thereof specified in the petition, may be referred to a vote of the people upon petition.

Sec. 3. (a) The referendum petition against an Act or part of an Act passed by the General Assembly, shall be sufficient if signed by three per centum of the qualified voters of the State of Maryland, calculated upon the whole number of votes cast therein for Governor at the last preceding Gubernatorial election, of whom not more than half shall be residents of Baltimore City, or of any one County; provided that any Public Local Law for any one County or the City of Baltimore, shall be referred by the Secretary of State only to the people of said County or City of Baltimore, upon a referendum petition of ten per cent of the qualified voters of said County or City of Baltimore, as the case may be, calculated upon the whole number of votes cast therein respectively for Governor at the last preceding Gubernatorial election.

Section 2.12. Suspension.

A law enacted by the General Assembly subject to referendum shall be suspendible unless it is passed by the affirmative vote of three-fifths of all the members of each house and contains a section declaring it to be an emergency law and necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety. If one-half the required signatures are filed during the thirty days after a bill becomes law, the law, if suspendible, shall be suspended thereby through the sixtieth day after it became law. If the remaining required signatures are filed by that sixtieth day, the law shall continue to be suspended.

Section 2.13. Effect of Referendum.

A referred law shall be repealed thirty days after it has been rejected by a majority of those voting on it if the number voting on the question is not less than one-fourth the number voting in the election. A suspended law which is not repealed shall take effect thirty days after the referendum or at a later time if prescribed in the law.

Section 2.14. Laws Applicable in One County.

The General Assembly shall prescribe by law procedures by which a law enacted by it and applicable in only one county may be petitioned to referendum. The law shall be submitted to a vote of the people of the county after a petition has been signed by a number of qualified voters of the county equal to at least ten per cent of the total votes cast for governor in that county in the most recent gubernatorial election. No law empowering a county to exercise a power or perform a function, nor any law pertaining to appropriations, nor any law granting, limiting, or withdrawing the taxing power of a county shall be subject to referendum pursuant to this section.