

the House of Delegates and the Senate shall, before it becomes a law, be presented to the Governor of the State; if he approves he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it with his objections to the House in which it originated, ... If any Bill presented to the Governor while the General Assembly is in session shall not be returned by him with his objections within six days (Sundays excepted), the same shall be a law in like manner as if he signed it, unless the General Assembly shall, by adjournment, prevent its return, in which case it shall not be a law.

"Any Bill presented to the Governor within six days (Sundays excepted), prior to adjournment of any session of the General Assembly, or after such adjournment, shall become law without the Governor's signature unless it shall be vetoed by the Governor within 30 days after its presentment."

In testing the legislative veto provision before it under a presentment clauses' challenge, the Atkins Court observed that the language of Article I. Sec. 7, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution literally applies only to actions "to which the Concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives may be necessary." Since the majority had previously concluded that the exercise of the legislative "veto" before it was not an act requiring such an occurrence, it had no difficulty in concluding that the form of the mechanism did not contravene the presentment clause of the U.S. Constitution. 556 F.2d at 1065. Because of the relatively narrow reach of Maryland's presentment clauses, we believe that that analysis applies with even more vigor to the provisions here under review.

In Warfield v. Vandiver, 101 Md. 78 (1925), the Court of Appeals was presented with the issue of whether a proposed constitutional amendment, adopted by the General Assembly, required Executive approval (or passage over Executive disapproval) before being submitted to the Electorate. The question was resolved in the negative, the Court (per Chief Judge McSherry) holding:

"The right which the Governor has to sign or veto is strictly confined to bills which when signed, or if vetoed, when passed by the requisite vote over the veto, become laws." (Emphasis in original). 24

Since Article II, Sec. 17 is consistent with Article III, Sec. 30,25 it necessarily follows that, under the Constitution of Maryland, only a bill embodying distinct legislation must be presented to the Governor and only such a bill is subject to gubernatorial veto. Thus, the question