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PUBLIC GENERAL LAW

PASSED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, JANUARY SESSION, 1882.

REGISTRATION OF VOTERS.

[CHAPTER 22.]

AN ACT to provide for the uniform registration of the names of all the qualified voters in this State.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the Governor shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoint at the present session of the General Assembly, one capable person in each election district in every county in this State, who shall be a voter and resident in the election district for which he shall be appointed, to be an officer of registration for the said election district.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted,* That the said Governor shall also nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate appoint at the present session of the General Assembly, twenty capable persons from each of the three Legislative Districts into which the City of Baltimore was divided on the first day of January, in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-two, to be officers of registration in the said City of Baltimore, for the respective election precincts in which they shall be respectively assigned to act; each of the persons so appointed shall be a voter and resident in the Legislative District from which he was appointed, as said Legislative District was constituted on in the day hereinbefore last named; when the wards of the City of Baltimore are newly divided, as directed by an Act passed at this session of the General Assembly, he shall assign one of the officers of registration, so appointed, to each three of the nine election precincts of which each ward in said City of Baltimore shall then be composed, assigning to the three first election precincts in each ward, as then laid out, in the regular order of their numbers, one of said officers of registration; to the second three election precincts in each ward, as then laid out, in the regular order of their numbers, one of said officers of registration; and to the third three election precincts in each ward, as then laid out, in the regular order of their numbers, one of the said officers of registration; the said Governor, in making said assignments of officers of registration in said city, to the said respective groups of election precincts shall be controlled by a careful consideration of the fitness of each officer to perform the duties to which he is assigned; at each regular session of the General Assembly, to be held after the present session, he shall appoint one officer of registration for each ward in the City of Baltimore, as then laid out, competent for the duties which he is required to perform, who shall be, when so appointed, a resident of the ward for which he is appointed.

SEC. 3. *And be it enacted,* That each of the said officers of registration shall have, in addition to the other powers conferred upon him by this Act, or which may be hereafter conferred upon him by law, during the respective times of his appointed sittings, under the provisions of this Act, the powers of a Justice of the Peace to preserve order and enforce obedience to his lawful commands, at or around his place of registration—to keep the access to such place open and unobstructed, to prevent and suppress riots, tumult, violence and disorder and all other improper practices, at, around or near to his place of registration, tending to intimidation or to the obstruction of the work of registration, or of the revision of the registration, and to protect and keep safe the registries of voters or poll-books, hereinafter referred to, while in his custody and possession; he may compel the presence of witnesses before him, while sitting as an officer of registration, for all purposes connected with the performance of the duties of his office, by summons and attachments; he may, while sitting as such officer of registration, commit for trial any person committing, at or around his place of registration, any offense forbidden by this Act; he shall have the power to issue any of said summons, attachments or commitments, when sitting in any county of this State, to the Sheriff of said county, or to any Constable thereof; and when sitting in the City of Baltimore, to the Marshal of Police, or to any police officer of said city; all such processes shall be served by said respective officers in the same manner as if they were issued by the Judge of a court of Record, having jurisdiction of the subject-matter, or by a Justice of the Peace, exercising police powers, within such respective jurisdictions; the Sheriff or Constable, in any county of this State, who shall serve any of said processes, shall receive the same fees, and in like manner, as it is or may be by law provided that he shall receive fees in other State cases; but no officer of police, in the City of Baltimore, shall charge or receive any fee for any service performed under this Act; and no officer of registration shall charge or receive any compensation for any service performed under this Act, except such as is provided by this Act.

SEC. 4. *And be it enacted,* That each of the said officers of registration, before entering upon the duties of his office, shall take and subsribe the oath or affirmation prescribed in the sixth section of the first Article of the Constitution of this State; the said oath or affirmation shall be taken and subscribed by each officer of registration appointed to act in the City of Baltimore, before the Clerk of the Superior Court of Baltimore City, and the said oath or affirmation shall be taken and subscribed by each officer of registration appointed to act within a county of this State, before the Clerk of the Circuit Court for the county in which he is appointed to act; said respective oaths or affirmations shall be entered and subscribed in a test book, to be by said respective clerks provided for that purpose.

SEC. 5. *And be it enacted,* That the term of office of each and every person so appointed to act as an officer of registration in any county of this State, and in the City of Baltimore, shall commence on the first Monday in May next ensuing his appointment, and shall continue for two years, unless such officer shall be sooner removed from office for incompetency or misconduct, or because disqualified by sickness from performing the duties of his office; in case it is made known to, or found by the Governor, that any officer of registration appointed for any election district in any county of this State, or for any group of election precincts in the City of Baltimore, or hereafter appointed for any ward in the City of Baltimore, is, or may be unable to perform his duties under this Act, within the time appointed for the performance of the same, the Governor shall have power to appoint a capable assistant to said officer of registration, to serve until the registry or registries of voters, poll books, or lists of qualified and registered voters, then in charge of the officer of registration, shall be completed; such assistant officer of registration, so to be appointed, shall possess the same qualifications which were required of the officer of registration whom he may be appointed to assist, and shall possess all the powers of said officer; but in all controverted questions—when both officers are present—in which the opinion of the officer and assistant officer of registration may differ, the decision of the principal officer of registration shall prevail.

SEC. 6. *And be it enacted,* That each and every person appointed as aforesaid, to act as an officer of registration, whether as principal or assistant officer, shall qualify as such officer of registration forthwith, and shall perform the duties of the office for which he was appointed, for the time for which he was appointed, unless removed from office for incompetency or misconduct, or because disqualified by sickness; any officer of registration, who, being duly appointed, shall fail, or refuse to qualify forthwith, or who having qualified, shall fail or refuse to perform any of the duties of his said office, shall be liable to a penalty of five hundred dollars, to be recovered by indictment in a Court having jurisdiction of the subject matter.

SEC. 7. *And be it enacted,* That the Governor shall cause the books to be prepared at the expense of the State, which shall be necessary, in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-two, for the use of the said respective officers of registration, for the registration of the names and facts required by this Act to be registered; there shall thus be provided for the purposes aforesaid, one registry of voters, and two poll-books or lists of qualified and registered voters for each election precinct in the City of Baltimore, and one registry of voters and two poll-books, or lists of qualified and registered voters for each election district in each county in this State, when such election district is not divided into election precincts; for each election district in any county of this State, which is divided into election precincts, there shall be one registry of voters and two polling-books for each of the election precincts into which such election district is so divided; said registries of voters and said poll-books shall be uniform in their general character, and shall each be of sufficient size for the uses for which it is intended; each of the said registries of voters shall be so arranged as to admit of the alphabetical classification of the names to be recorded therein, and shall be ruled in parallel columns for the entry of the following particulars: *First,* of the name of the person applying to be registered; *second,* his color; *third,* whether sworn or affirmed; *fourth,* his age; *fifth,* the place of his birth; *sixth,* the place of his residence by street and number, if any; *seventh,* the time of his residence in the City of Baltimore, and in the ward in which he shall apply to be registered, or in the county and election district in which he shall apply to be registered; *eighth,* whether naturalized; *ninth,* 'qualified voter;" *tenth,* 'disqualified,' *eleventh* 'remarks;' each of said poll-books shall be so arrangedas to admit the alphabetical classification of the names to be recorded therein, and shall be ruled in parallel coumns for the entry; *First,* of the name of such qualified voter, as the same is recorded in the registry of voters of said election district or election precinct; and *second,* of the place of residence by street and number, if any, of such qualified voter, as the same is recorded in the said registry of voters.

SEC. 8. *And be it enacted,* That the Governor shall cause to be delivered to the Sheriff of each county in this State, before the fourth Monday of May, in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-two, addressed to each officer of registration of each election district in said county, which is not divided into election precincts, one of said registries of voters and two of said poll-books, each of sufficient size for the uses for which it is intended in said election district; he shall cause to be delivered to the Sheriff of each county in this State, before the day hereinbefore last named, addressed to each officer of registration of each election district in said county, which is divided into election precincts, one of said registries of voters and two of said poll-books for each of said election precincts, each of sufficient size, for the uses for which it is intended in said respective election precincts; he shall cause to be delivered to the Board of Police Commissioners for the City of Baltimore, addressed to each officer of registration for a group of election precincts in said city, before the day hereinbefore last named, one of said registries of voters and two of said poll-books for each one said election precincts of which he is an officer of registration, each of sufficient size for the uses for which it is intended; each of said Sheriffs and the said Board of Police Commissioners for the City of Baltimore, shall forthwith deliver the said respective registries of voters and poll-books so delivered to them respectively by the Governor, to the respective officers of registration to whom they are respectively addressed, and the said respective officers of registration on receiving the same shall immediately receipt therefor to the Governor, and to the officers from whom they were respectively received; and it shall be the duty of the Governor, when he shall send the several books above required, to the several officers of registration, as required by this section, also to send to be delivered to each of registration, a copy of this law, which he is hereby authorized to have printed in such form as he thinks best, at the expense of the State.

SEC. 9. *And be it enacted,* That each of the said officers of registration, appointed for a group of election precincts in any ward in the City of Baltimore, shall endorse upon the back and write at the head of each registry of voters, and of each poll-book delivered to him as aforesaid, the number of the ward, and the number of the election precinct in said ward, of which he is an officer of registration, of which such books may be, respectively, the registry of voters and poll-books, and shall sit for the purpose of ascertaining and registering in the proper registry of voters and proper poll-books of each of the election precincts, of which he may be an officer of registration, daily, except on Sundays, at some place, to be by him appointed, in the group of election precincts of the ward, of which he is an officer of registration, convenient to the residents of said election precincts, from the first Monday of June, in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-two, to the first Monday in July, exclusive of said last named day in said last mentioned year, and shall sit, in like manner, for the purpose of revising and completing the registries of voters and poll books in each of said election precincts, and of performing all other duties devolved upon him by law, from the first Monday of September, inclusive of said day, in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-two, for fifteen successive days, Sundays excepted; and shall sit, in like manner, and for the same purposes for three successive days, commencing with, and including, the first Monday in October, in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-two, and in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-three, shall sit, in like manner, and for the same purposes, from the first Monday of September, inclusive of said day, for fifteen successive days, Sundays excepted; and shall sit, in like manner, and for the same purposes, for three successive days, commencing with, and including the first Monday in October, in said last mentioned year; and the officer of registration, appointed for each ward of the City of Baltimore, after the year eighteen hundred and eighty-three, and beginning in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-four, shall sit, in like manner, for the purpose of revising the registry of voters and poll-books, or list of qualified and registered voters in each of the election precincts in the ward of which he may be an officer of registration, from the first Monday of September, inclusive of said day, in said last mentioned year, for fifteen successive days, Sundays excepted, and for three successive days, commencing with, and including, the first Monday in October, in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-four, and shall sit, at and for the same periods of time, and for the same purposes, in each succeeding year; the said respective officers of registration shall sit, at said respective sittings, in the City of Baltimore, with open doors, from 8 o'clock, A. M., to 7 o'clock, P. M., on each day of their said appointed sittings.

SEC. 10. *And be it enacted,* That each of the said officers of registration, appointed for an election district for any county in this State, shall endorse upon the back, and write at the head of each registry of voters, and of each poll-book delivered to him as aforesaid, the name of the county, and the number or name of the election district, and of the election precinct in such election district of such county of which he is an officer of registration, of which such books may be respectively the registry of voters and poll-books, and shall sit for the purpose of ascertaining and registering, in the proper registry of voters and poll-books, the persons qualified to vote in the election district, or in each of the election precincts of such election district, if such election district be so divided, of which he is an officer of registration, on the Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, after the second Monday in the month of July, and on the Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday after the second Monday in the month of August, eighteen hundred and eighty-two, inclusive of said last mentioned day, and shall sit for the purpose of revising and completing his said registry or registries of voters, or poll-books, of said election district, or of the election precincts of said election district, on the Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, of the two successive weeks next after the first Monday of September in yeareighteen hundred eightytwo, shall sit, as aforesaid, for the purposes aforesaid on the said Tuesday, Wednesday, Thusday, Friday and Saturday next after the first Monday in September, in each year thereafter, and shall sit in like manner, and for the same purposes, for two successive days commencing with and including the first Monday in October, in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-two, and on the same days in the month of October in each year thereafter; if the election district for which he is appointed an officer of registration is not divided into election precincts, he shall, at his sittings in July and August, in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-two, and at his September sitting in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-two, and at his September sitting in each year thereafter, sit for the purposes aforesaid, in one or more places, not exceeding in all three in number, in his election district, convenient, respectively, to the residents of the different sections of said election district; and shall sit at each of said places on so many of the days designated by this Act for his said respective sittings as will suffice to afford an opportunity for ascertaining and registering the qualified voters of said different sections of his said election district, and of his whole election district; if the said election district for which he is appointed officer of registration, is, or shall be, divided into election precincts, he shall at his sittings in July and August, in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-two, and at his September sitting in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-two, and at his September sitting in each year thereafter, sit at some place in each of said election precincts, convenient to the residents thereof, on so many of the days designated by this Act for his said respective sittings, as will suffice to afford an opportunity for ascertaining and registering the qualified voters in each of said election precincts; the sitting in the month of October, in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-two, and each year thereafter, shall be held at such one place in his election district as may be convenient to the greater number of the residents thereof; the said respective officer registration shall, at such respective sittings, in any of the counties of this State, from eight o'clock, A. M., to seven o'clock., P. M., on each day of their said appointed sittings.

SEC. 11. *And be it enacted,* That the first sitting of the said respective officers of registration, appointed to act respectively in the City of Baltimore, and in the counties of this State, is designated and referred to in this Act as the "first summer sitting;" the first of the next two subsequent sittings of said respective officers of registration, provided to be held each year, is in this Act designated and referred to as the "September sitting;" and the last of said two subsequent sittings of said respective officers of registration, provided to be held each year, is in this Act designated, and referred to as the "October sitting."

SEC. 12. *And be it enacted,* That said officers of registration appointed for the respective groups of election precincts in the City of Baltimore, or oa hereafter appointed for the respective wards of said city, shall give in each year a collective notice, signed by such one of their number as they shall designate for that purpose, of their respective sittings, to be held in said year, under the provisions of this Act, and of the times and places at which such respective sittings shall take place; such notice shall be given at least ten days before the first day of said first summer sitting, and one week before the first day of each September and October sitting, by publication in six daily newspapers published in Baltimore city, having the largest circulation in said city, one of which shall be in the German language, and one of which newspapers shall be of opposite political opinion to those held by the Registers.

SEC. 13. *And be it enacted,* That the several officers of registration appointed in each county, shall give in each year, a collective notice, signed by them, of their said respective sittings to be held in said year, under the provisions of this Act, and of the places of sitting in each election district, and of the times at which each of said respective sittings shall take place, said notice shall be given by said officers of registration at least ten days before the first day of their first summer sitting, and one week before the first day of their respective September and October sittings, by publication in two newspapers published in said county, of opposite political opinions, having the largest respective circulation in said county, and by hand-bills set in such public places in each election district or in the election precincts of each election district, if each election district be so divided, as each of said officers of registration shall select in their respective districts, but if there should be no papers of opposite political opinions in any of the counties of this State, as above specified, then in two newspapers which may be published in different sections or parts of said county, if there be such.

SEC. 14. *And be it enacted,* That if for any necessary cause, the place or places of meeting in any election district in any county of this State, or in any group of election precincts in the City of Baltimore, or (in and after the year eighteen hundred and eighty-four,) in any ward in said city, shall be changed after advertisement thereof, immediate notice shall be given thereof by new advertisement; if the change be made in the City of Baltimore, in all the daily newspapers of said city, and by printed hand-bills, set up in public places in said respective election precincts or wards in which such place or places of meeting shall have been changed; and if such change be made in any county, by advertisement in all the newspapers in said county, and also by hand-bills posted in such election precincts in which such changes shall have been made as the said officer of registration shall select.

SEC. 15. *And be it enacted,* That each of the said respective officers of registration, to whom, when sitting at any time appointed by this Act, and between the hours appointed by this Act, for the registration of qualified voters in his proper registry of voters and poll-books, or lists of qualified and registered voters, or for the revision of his registry or registries of voters and list or lists of qualified and registered voters, an application is made by any male personally appearing before such officer of registration, that his name shall be registered as a qualified voterin any election precinct or in any election district of which he is an officer of registration, shall thereupon record in its proper column, in the proper registry of voters for the election precinct or election district of which he is an officer of registration, and in which the person applying to be registered may have his legal residence, in the proper alphabetical place of the sur-name of the applicant; first, the exact name of such person recording the sur-name and first Christian name of the said applicant in full; second, the color of third, he shall next administer to such person an oath, or affirmation, that he will make true answers to such questions as he, the said officer of registration may propound to him, touching the right of said applicant to be registered and to vote in the election precinct, or election district, in which he has applied to be registered, and shall enter in the proper column, opposite the name of the applicant, the fact that such applicant has been so sworn or affirmed; he shall next enter in the proper column, opposite to the name of the applicant, after making full inquiry, the following particulars, namely: fourth, the age of the applicant; fifth, the place of his birth; sixth, the place of his residence, recording the street square and avenue, road or lane, on or near which he may so reside, and giving the number of his dwelling-house, if it has any number, or such description as shall be sufficient to identify, with certainty, such place of residence, and enable it to be readily found; seventh, the time such applicant has resided in the City of Baltimore, and in the election precinct and ward in which he applies to be registered, or in the county, and in the election district of the county, or election precinct of such district, if it be so divided, in which he applies to be registered; eighth, if naturalized, the date of his final papers or certificate of naturalization, and a minute of the Court by which the same was issued; ninth and tenth, if it is found upon such examination, that the applicant possesses, or before the day of election next ensuing will possess, the requisite qualifications, under the Constitution of Maryland and the laws made in pursuance thereof, and is not disqualified under the provisions of the second and third section of the first Article of the Constitution of this State, and that the said person has not been registered under the provisions of this Act, in any other election precinct, or election district of this State, the said applicant shall be entered forthwith by said officer of registration, in the presence of said applicant, as a qualified voter, by recording his name, in the same manner in which it was first recorded, in the proper column of the registry of voters, under the head of "qualified voter;" if the applicant is found to be disqualified as a voter in the election precinct, or election district, in which he shall apply to be registered, a line shall be heavily drawn in ink, opposite to his said name, under the head, "qualified voter," and the cause of his disqualification shall be briefly stated, opposite to his name, as first recorded, under the head of "disqualified," and a line be drawn across his name, as first entered, but in such manner that said name shall remain legible; if the said officer of registration shall be in dou t, after his primary examination of said applicant, and of such other evidence given upon oath or affirmation, as may be immediately accessible, or because of lack of sufficient proof, whether said applicant is a qualified voter, he may adjourn the determination of the said matter to any subsequent day of the particular sitting then being held, but such adjournment shall not, in any event, be to a time beyond the last day of the particular sitting, at which application is made; on which appointed day, the said officer of registration shall proceed to determine the matter in question, and to enter the applicant in the proper registry of voters as a qualified voter, or as disqualified; but, it is expressly hereby declared and set forth, that nothing herein contained shall be construed as authorizing any of said officers of registration to ask any question of, or concerning any applicant for registration as a qualified voter, touching any cause of disqualification not expressly ennumerated in the Constitution of this State.

SEC. 16. *And be it enacted,* That when any officer of registration, shall, at any of his appointed sittings, in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-two, enter in his proper registry of voters of any election precinct or election district, of which he is an officer of registration, the name of any applicant for registration as a qualified voter, he shall immediately thereafter enter, in the presence of the applicant if he is in attendance, in its proper alphabetical place, in both of the poll-books, or lists of qualified and registered voters of such election precinct, or election district, the name and residence of said applicant, as the same are recorded in said registry of voters.

SEC. 17. *And be it enacted,* That each officer of registration appointed for a group of election precincts in any ward of the City of Baltimore, shall, within six days after the close of his October sitting, in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-two, deliver to the Clerk of the Superior Court of Baltimore City, the registry of voters and the two poll-books, so completed as aforesaid, of each of the election precincts of which he is an officer of registration; and shall append to each of said poll-books, before so delivering the same a certificate, signed by said officer of registration, and verified by his oath or affirmation, that the said poll book is a complete list of the qualified and registered voters in said election precinct, and of the residence of each of said qualified and registered voters, as the same are recorded in the registry of voters of such election precinct as then made up; and that the entries in the said registry of voters of the names and residences of the persons shown thereby to be qualified voters, were made *bona fide,* and according to the requirements of this Act; and that no name has been omitted from, or added to, said registry of voters or poll-book, contrary to the requirements of this Act; and each of said respective officers of registration appointed for a group of election precincts in any wards for the years eighteen hundred and eighty-three, and for any ward in each year after the year eighteen hundred and eighty-three, shall, within ten days after the close of his October sitting, in any of said years, make, or cause to be made in two proper poll-books, arranged as directed by the seventh section of this Act, and endorsed and headed as directed by the ninth section of this Act, two alphabetical lists of the names of the qualified and registered voters in each of the election precincts of which he is an officer of registration, as the same are recorded in the registry of voters of each of such election precincts, with the residence of each of said qualified and registered voters in such election precinct, as the same is recorded in the registry of voters of such election precinct, set opposite to the name of the said voters, and shall, in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-three, and in each year thereafter, within ten days after the close of his October sitting in any such year, deliver to the said Clerk of the Superior Court of Baltimore city, the registry of voters, and the two poll-books so completed as aforesaid, of each of the election precincts of which he is an officer of registration, and shall append to each of said poll-books before so delivering the same, a certificate signed by himself, and verified by his oath or affirmation, of the tenor and to the effect of the certificate in this section before mentioned; and it shall be the duty of the said Clerk of the Superior Court of Baltimore City to deliver one of said poll-books or lists of qualified and registered voters of said election precincts, so delivered to him in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-two, and in each year thereafter to the Board of Police Commissioners for the City of Baltimore, on or before the third Wednesday in October, in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-two, and on or before same day in each year thereafter.

SEC. 18. *And be it enacted,* That each officer of registration appointed for any election district in any county of this State, shall, within six days after the close of his October sitting, in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-two, deliver to the Clerk of the Circuit Court for his county, the registry of voters and the two poll-books so completed as aforesaid, of the election district or the registries of voters and the two poll-books so completed as aforesaid, of each of the election precincts of his election district if so divided, of which he is an officer of registration, and shall append to each of said poll-books, before so delivering the same, a certificate signed by said officer of registration, and verified by his oath or affirmation, that the said poll-book is a complete list of the qualified and registered voters of said election district, or said election precinct of said election district, and of the residence of each of said qualified and registered voters, as the same recorded in the registry of voters of such election district or election precinct, as then made up, and that the entries in said registry of voters of the names and residences of the persons shown thereby to be qualified voters, were made bona fide and according to the requirements of this Act; and that no name has been omitted from, or added to, said registry of voters or poll-book contrary to the requirements of this Act; and each of said officers of registration shall, in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-three, and in each year thereafter, within ten days after the close of his October sitting in any of said years, make, or cause to be made, in two proper poll-books, arranged as directed by the seventh section of this Act, and endorsed and headed as directed by the ninth section of this Act, two alphabetical lists of the names of the qualified and registered voters in the election district, or in each of the election precincts of the election district of which he is an officer of registration, as the same are recorded in the registry of voters of such election district, or of such election precinct in such election district, with the residence of each of said qualified and registered voters, as the same is recorded in the registry of voters of the proper election district, or election precinct in an election district, set oppposite to the name of the said voters; and shall, in the said year eighteen hundred and eighty-three, and in each year thereafter, within ten days after the close of his October sitting in any such year, deliver to the Clerk of the Circuit Court for his county, the registry of voters and the two poll-books of the of the election district, or of each election precinct in the election precinct of which he is an officer of registration; and shall append to each of said poll-books, before so delivering the same, a certificate signed by himself and verified by his oath or affirmation, of the tenor and to the effect of the certificate in this section mentioned; and it shall be the duty of the said Clerk of the said Clerk of said Circuit Court for the said county to deliver one of said poll-books or lists of qualified and registered voters of each of said election districts, or one of said poll-books or lists of qualified and registered voters of each of said election precincts in an election district, so delivered to him in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-two, and in each year thereafter, to the Sheriff of his said county, on or before the third Wednesday of October, in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-two, and on or before the same day in each year thereafter.

SEC. 19. *And be it enacted,* That for the correction of the registries of voters and poll-books, or lists of qualified and registered voters, made as aforesaid, in each election district of a county in this State, and in each election precinct of the City of Baltimore, each of said officers of registration, appointed for each election district in this State, shall demand from the Clerk of the Circuit Court for his county, and each officer of registration appointed for any group of election precincts in the City of Baltimore, and after the year eighteen hundred and eighty three, each officer of registration appointed for any ward in the City of Baltimore, shall demand from the Clerk of the Superior Court of Baltimore, between the last Monday in August and the first Monday in September, in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-three, and between the same days in every year thereafter, the registry of voters and poll-books for the election district for which he was appointed an officer of registration, or the registries of voters and poll-books for the election precincts of the election district for which he was so appointed, if such election district is so divided, or the registry of voters and poll-book of each election precinct in the group of election precincts or in the ward of the City of Baltimore, for which he is an officer of registration; which respective registries and lists, or poll-books, it shall be the duty of the said respective clerks to deliver forthwith to the said respectivive proper officers of registration, who are applicants therefor, upon proper receipt of said respective officers of registration.

SEC. 20. *And be it enacted,* That each officer of registration, when sitting at his respective September and October sittings, in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-two, and in each year thereafter, as is in this Act provided, for the purposes in this Act before mentioned, shall proceed, in all particulars, in relation to persons applying to him to be registered, in the manner directed by the fifteenth section of this Act; at each of said sittings he shall strike from the registries or register of voters, and from the lists or list of qualified and registered voters of the election district or election precincts, of which he is in charge as an officer of registration, the names of all persons in such election district who are personally known to him, or who shall be satisfactorily proved to him by the oath or affirmation of a competent witness, or of competent witnesses, to be then dead, or to have removed from the election precinct or election district in which their names are registered, and to have acquired a residence elsewhere, or who may have become, or may be disqualified under the provisions of the second or third sections of the first Article of the Constitution of this State; such names shall be so stricken from such registries or lists in such manner as to remain legible; he shall note on any of said registries or lists of voters, from which any name was so stricken, under the head of "remarks," in each of said cases, the cause of striking off the name of each of said persons, and he shall briefly state whether the same was done upon his own knowledge or upon the evidence of others, and if it was done on the evidence of others, he shall state the names and addresses of such witnesses; he shall deliver to any person applying for the same, whose name may appear on the registry of voters, or list of qualified and registered voters of any election precinct, or election district of which he may be the officer of registration, a copy, certified by his signature and official title, of all entries in said registry and list relating to the registration of said person; if such person should apply for the same, alleging that he has acquired a residence elsewhere in this State, and that he desires the same for the purpose of being registered in the election precinct, or election district in which he has acquired a new residence, he shall strike from the registry of voters, and from the list of qualified voters of the election precinct, or election district in which such person is registered, the name of such person, and shall give to such person a certificate, certified by his signature and official title, of the particulars of his said former registration, from which his name has been so stricken; said certificate shall contain all the entries relating to the said former registration of such person, and shall show that the name of such person has been stricken from said registry of voters, and from the list of qualified and registered voters of the election precinct, or election district in which he was formerly registered; when any person applying for registration at any sitting of an officer of registration, appointed under the provisions of this Act, shall be found, upon proper inquiry, to have been previously registered within this State, under the provisions of this Act, the officer of registration, to whom such application is made, before registering such person, shall demand and receive from him a certificate of his last previous registration, made by the officer of registration, or by the Clerk of the Court, in whose custody the registry of voters and list of qualified and registered voters may then be, in which such applicant was formerly registered, showing the entries relating to said person in such former registration, and showing that the name of such person has been stricken from the registry of voters and list of qualified voters in the election precinct or election district in which he was last before recorded as a qualified and registered voter; such certificate of previous registration shall be cancelled by the officer of registration, who shall register such person anew.

SEC. 21. *And be it enacted,* That each officer of registration appointed under this Act, shall, within five days after each of the several sittings, in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-two, make and publish in hand-bill, from a complete list of all persons registered at said several sittings, and shall, in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-three, and in each year thereafter, within three days after the expiration of his September sitting, and within the same time after the expiration of his October sitting, make complete and publish two alphabetical lists, one of which alphabetical lists shall comprise the names of those persons whom said officers have stricken from any registry of voters, or list of qualified and registered voters, delivered to said respective officers by said respective Clerks of Courts; and the other one of which alphabetical lists shall comprise the names and residences of the persons whom said respective officers of registration have newly registered as qualified voters in their respective election districts, or election precincts, at their said preceding sitting, and also the names of those persons whom the proper Judges or Judge, acting under the authority conferred by this Act, have or has ordered to be registered in said election district, or election precinct; the said respective officers of registration shall cause said respective lists to be published by hand bills, posted in such public places as they may respectively select, in their respective election districts or election precincts.

SEC. 22. *And be it enacted,* That if any resident of any election district or election precinct in this State, who may become qualified to vote in such election district, or election precinct, after the occurrence of an election therein subsequent to the last appointed day of the last sitting of the officer of registration for such election district, or election precinct, shall desire to be registered therein for the purpose of voting at a new or special election to be held therein before the next appointed sitting of the officer of registration for such election district, or election precinct, or if any person shall think himself aggrieved by the refusal of the officer of registration of any election district, or election precinct, to register his name as a qualified vot r in such election district, or election precinct, at any sitting appointed by law for the purpose of the registration of qualified voters in such election district or election precinct, or for the revision and correction of the list of qualified and registered voters in such election district, or election precinct, or by the striking off his name, or the name of any other registered voter from the registry of voters or list of qualified and registered voters of such election district, or election precinct, or being duly registered in the proper registry of voters of such election district, or election precinct, by the omission of his name from the poll book or list of qualified and registered voters of such election district, or election precinct, or by the misspolling of his name in such registry of voters, or list of qualified and registered voters, or by the registration of any person in such election district, or election precinct, who was not entitled to be registered therein, or by refusing to strike from the registry of voters, or list of qualified voters, the name of any person who has ceased to be a qualified voter in said district or precinct, since he was registered, or by the placing upon the poll book of such election district, or election precinct, any name not entered, or improperly entered as a qualified voter in the registry of voters of such election district, or election precinct, he shall have the right to appeal forthwith from such decision or action, to the Judges or to a Judge of the Circuit Court of the county in which such election district, or election precinct, is situated, in which such matter of complaint arose, or to one of the Judges of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City, if such election precinct, in which such matter of complaint arose, is situated in said city, by petition, verified by his oath of affirmation, at any time before the time appointed by law for delivering the poll book, or list of qualified and registered voters of such election district, or election precinct, to which his petition may relate, to the judges of election of such election district, or election precinct; such petition shall fully state the matter whereof complaint is made; there shall be filed therewith, as exhibits, certified copies of all the entries in the proper registry of list of qualified and registered voters of such election district, or election precinct, which relate to the subject-matter of said petition; and the officer of registration of such election district, or election precinct, and the Clerk of the Circuit Court for the county in which such election district, or election precinct, is situated, or the Clerk of the Superior Court of Baltimore City, if such election precinct is situated in said city, shall be named in and made defendants to said petition; such Judges or Judge, such petition and exhibits show *prima facie* cause of complaint, shall ordera summons to be issued forthwith to said officer of registration, and to said Clerk, directing them to appear and answer forthwith, upon oath or affirmation, and in person or otherwise, as said Judges or Judge may direct; said officer of registration shall not to required to appear in person, upon any day appointed by this Act for the performance of his duties under this Act, but at such times may appear by counsel; if the said Judge or Judges, after considering said petition and answer, or answers, and hearing such testimony as may be adduced for or against said petition, shall determine that said petitioner ought to be registored in such election district, or election precinct, or has been unlawfully refused registration in such election district or election precinct, or that the name of such petitioner has been unlawfully stricken from or incorrectly entered in the registry of voters of such election district, or election precinct, or unlawfully omitted from or incorrectly entered in the poll-book of such election district, or election precinct, or that the person named in such petition has been unlawfully placed in the registry or poll-book of such election district, or election precinct, they or he shall order said clerk and officer of registration to enter the name of such petitioner, or to enter again, or to enter correctly, the name of said petitioner as a qualified and registered voter, and his residence, in the proper registry of voters and poll-book, or in the poll-book of such election district, or election precinct, then in the custody of such clerk or officer of registration; and shall order the said officer of registration to enter the proper name and residence of such petitioner in the proper poll-book of such election district, or election precinct, which may then be in the custody of the Sheriff of his county, or may then be in custody of the Board of Police Commissioners for the City of Baltimore; or shall order the said clerk and officer of registration to strike the name of the person named in petitition, whom they or he may determine to have been improperly registered, from the proper registry of voters and list of qualified and registered voters then in the custody of such clerk or officer of registration; and shall order the said officer of registration to strike said name from the poll-book or list of qualified and registered voters of said election district, or election precinct, which may be in the custody of the Sheriff of his county, or the Board of Police Commissioners for the City; it shall be the duty of the said clerk, and of the said Sheriff, and of the said Board of Police Commissioners of the City of Baltimore, respectively, to produce, on the exhibition of such order of said Judge or Judges, by such officer of rsgistration, the registry of voters and poll-book, or the poll-book to which such order relates, if the same be then in his or their custody, to the end that such entry, or striking out, may be so made as ordered by said Judges or Judge; when any name is so entered as a qualified voter in any registry of voters, or poll-book, or list of qualified and registered voters, or is so stricken from any registry of voters or poll-book, or list of qualified and registered voters, there shall be noted in such registry of voters, or poll-book or list, under the head of "remarks," a memorandum of the order directing the same, and the date of such order and the name and title of the officer by whom the same was done, and the date of suchentry or striking out; in every such appeal, if it shall appear to the said Judges or Judge, upon the consideration thereof, that the officer of registration from whose decision or action such appeal was taken acted in good faith in so deciding or acting, the costs of said appeal shall be paid by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, if the appeal related to any election precinct in said city or by the County Commissioners of the county in which the election district is situated to which the said appeal related; but if said Judges or Judge shall, upon consideration of such case, be of the opinion that said officer of registration did not act in good faith in the matter whereof complaint is made, they or he may adjudge that the costs of said appeal shall be paid by said officer of registration; if said appeal is dismissed by said Judges or Judge the costs thereof shall be paid by the petitioner, but no attorney's appearance fee shall, in any case, be taxed as a part of the costs of such proceedings.

SEC. 23. *And be it enacted,* That for the purposes of any new or special election to be held in this State in any year, the registries of voters and the lists of qualified and registered voters in the several election districts and election precincts of this State, which were returned to the respective proper Clerks of Courts in this State, subsequent to the last preceding October sittings of the respective officers of registration, shall be subject to such corrections as may be made in them respectively, by the order of the proper Judges or Judge, as hereinbefore provided, the registries of voters and the lists of qualified and registered voters in the several election districts and election precincts of the State, for the purposes of said new or special attention.

SEC. 24. *And be it enacted,* That no officer of registration in this State shall register any name in any registry of voters, of which he may have the custody as an officer of registration, or strike any name from any such registry of voters, or make any other entry in any such registry of voters, except upon a day appointed by this Act, for a public sitting of such officer of registration, nor except between the hours appointed by this Act, for his sitting on such day, except by or under the order of the proper Judges or Judge, as in this Act provided.

SEC. 25. *And be it enacted,* That a copy of any registry of voters, or poll book, relating to a particular person, or to particular persons, certified by the Clerk of the Court in whose custody such registry of voters or poll book may then be, under his hand and the seal of his Court, or certified by the officer of registration, in whose custody such registry of voters or poll book may then be, by his own hand, and by his official title, or of all the entries in any poll book relating to any particular person or persons, certified by the Board of Police Commissioners for the City of Baltimore, if such poll book be in the custody of said Board, referring to said registry or poll book, of which it purports to be a copy, in whole or in part, so accurately as fully to identify the same shall be evidence in any Court, or before, any Judges or Judge of this State, or before any officer of registration, of the matter set forth and contained in such copy.

SEC. 26. *And be it enacted,* That every person whose name shall appear in said respective lists of qualified and registered voters made at the October sittings, in each year of said respective officers of registration, as amended by the order of the proper Judges or Judge, as hereinbefore provided, shall be entitled to vote in the election precinct or election district in which he is so registered, at every election held thereafter, until another registration of voters, or correction thereof has been duly made and completed.

(*Continued on second page.*)

PROCLAMATION.

STATE OF MARYLAND,
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
Annapolis, April 28, 1882.

WHEREAS, by the General As mbly at the session of 1880, Chapter 417, an act was passed entitled "An Act to amend section five of article four of the Constitution of the State of Maryland, relating to the election of the Judges of the several Courts of the State, as therein provided.

And whereas by article 14, section 1, of the Constitution, the Governor is required by publication to make known to the people of the State the proposed amendment to be voted on, which publication was duly made as required.

And whereas, at the election held on the eighth day of November 1881, the people of this State did adopt the proposed amendment of the Constitution, as appears by the election returns of file in the State Department, 84,790 having been cast for the adoption of the proposed amendment of the Constitution, and 3,239 votes cast against the said amendment.

And whereas, the said article 14, section 1, of the Constitution requires that the said amendment or amendments having received said majority of votes to have been adopted by the people as a part of the Constitution of Maryland.

Now, therefore, I, William T. Hamilton, Governor of the State of Maryland, do, by this my proclamation make known and declare that the amendment of the Constitution proposed by the Act of the General Assembly at the session of 1880, chapter 417, has been adopted by the people of Maryland as a part of the Constitution of the State.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of Maryland, at the city of Annapolis, on this 28th day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-two.

WILLIAM T. HAMILTON.

By the Governor
JAMES T. BRISCOE,
Secretary of State.

May 4, 6t.

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