

(B) IN ADDITION, THE FIVE AFOREMENTIONED COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MUST HAVE BEEN RESIDENTS OF THE DISTRICTS FOR TWO (2) YEARS, OR INSTEAD, RESIDENTS OF THE COUNTY FOR FOUR (4) YEARS. THE FOUR COMMISSIONERS IN ADDITION MUST BE QUALIFIED VOTERS IN THE COMMISSIONER DISTRICT PRIOR TO ELECTION TO OFFICE.

(C) THE FIFTH COMMISSIONER WHO WILL BE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD (ON A FULL TIME BASIS IS TO ALSO) SHALL RUN AT LARGE AND BE ELECTED BY THE VOTERS OF THE ENTIRE COUNTY. THE PRESIDENT MUST BE A REGISTERED VOTER, A RESIDENT OF THE COUNTY FOR AT LEAST FIVE (5) YEARS PRIOR TO ELECTION TO OFFICE AND AT LEAST TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS OF AGE. (THE PRESIDENT WILL PRESIDE OVER ALL BOARD OF COMMISSIONER MEETINGS AND DIRECT THE AFFAIRS OF THAT OFFICE AS DECIDED BY THREE FIFTHS MAJORITY OF THE BOARD.) THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MAY ELECT A VICE PRESIDENT TO PRESIDE IN THE TEMPORARY ABSENCE OR DISABILITY OF THE PRESIDENT.

(D) NOTHING HEREIN SHALL BE DEEMED IN DEROGATION OF THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE PRESENT DULY ELECTED COMMISSIONERS.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That before this Act becomes effective it shall first be submitted to a referendum of the legally qualified voters of St. Mary's County at a special election to be held November 6, 1973. The cost of the special election, if any, shall be paid by the Board of County Commissioners. The Board of County Commissioners and the Board of Supervisors of Election of St. Mary's County shall do those things necessary and proper to provide for and hold the referendum here required. There shall be printed on the ballots or ballot labels to be used at this election the title of this Act and underneath the title, on separate lines, a square or box to the right of and opposite the words "For-----" and a corresponding square or box to the right of and opposite the words "Against-----" so that each voter of the county may designate his or her decision for or against the provisions of this Act. If a majority of the votes cast in the election are "For-----", the provisions of this Act shall become effective on the 30th day following the official canvass of votes for the referendum, but if a majority of the votes cast in the election are "Against-----", the provisions of this Act shall be of no effect and null and void.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1973 ; but nothing herein shall be construed to affect the number, organization, or tenure of the members of the Board of County Commissioners in office as of July 1, 1973, for the remainder of the term in which they then are serving, it being the legislative intent that the provisions for an increased number of County Commissioners shall take effect in the conduct of the regular elections in the year 1974 and at the time the County Commissioners then elected begin their terms of office.

Approved May 24, 1973.

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