

CHAPTER 587

(Senate Bill 123)

AN ACT concerning

Election Law - Political Parties and Nomination of Candidates

FOR the purpose of altering the requirements for the formation of a new political party; altering the requirements for a new political party to retain its status as a political party; ~~altering the requirements for a candidate to be nominated by petition~~; authorizing certain political parties to nominate candidates by petition or by convention; providing for a delayed effective date; and generally relating to political parties and the nomination of candidates.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 33 - Election Code

~~Section 4-102, 4-103, and 5-703(e)~~ Section 4-102 and 4-103, 4-103; and 5-703(e)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1997 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

(As enacted by Chapter 585 (S.B. ___/H.B. ___) (8lr0487) of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1998)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article 33 - Election Code

4-102.

(a) Any group of registered voters may form a new political party by:

(1) Filing with the State Board on the prescribed form a petition meeting the requirements of subsection (b) of this section and of Title 6 of this article; and

(2) Adopting and filing an interim constitution and bylaws in accordance with subsection (e) of this section.

(b) (1) The petition shall state:

(i) The partisan organization's intent to organize a State political party;

(ii) The name of the partisan organization;

(iii) The name and signature of the State chairman of the partisan organization; and

(iv) The names and addresses of 25 registered voters, including the State chairman, who shall be designated as constituting the initial governing body of the partisan organization.