

Md.'s Blount Restored to Ballot

By **AMY ARGETSINGER**
Washington Post Staff Writer

Maryland Senate Majority Leader Clarence W. Blount (D-Baltimore) yesterday regained his spot on the Sept. 15 primary ballot after the state's highest court ruled that he had not abandoned his home in the Baltimore district he represents.

Blount, a 28-year member of the state General Assembly, was thrown out of the race last week by a Circuit Court judge after he admitted that he spends most of his nights at his suburban Pikesville condominium.

But the Maryland Court of Appeals overturned that ruling yesterday, rekindling an increasingly bitter primary battle between Blount and the man who challenged his residency, Del. Frank D. Boston Jr. The court did not explain its decision but will issue a written opinion later.

Boston argued that Blount no longer truly represented his urban district. Though Blount keeps an apartment in Baltimore, Boston's

lawyers said, there was no food in the refrigerator, no air conditioning, no newspaper subscription or cable television hookup there.

Blount's attorney, George L. Russell Jr., argued that "99.9 percent of his waking hours are spent in the 41st District" and that the senator and his wife carefully maintain the apartment, which has been in the family for 30 years.

Blount said yesterday that Boston's challenge was a sheerly political move. "For some people, the stakes were high, and I stood in the way," Blount said. "He was on my ticket and I created him, and that's what makes it so painful."

Boston said he was disappointed by the ruling. "We had an abundance of concrete, solid, hard evidence that the senator does not live in the 41st Legislative District," he said. "What this is saying to me is that people can run anywhere they want to in the State of Maryland if they establish a mail drop six months prior to the election."