

ART. 97.

voter shall deliver to the judge or judges of the election in the district in which he offers to vote, a ballot, on which shall be written, or printed, the name or names of the person or persons voted for, and the purpose for which the vote is given, plainly designated, and the ballot so delivered in, and received by the judge or judges of the election, shall be deposited in the ballot box till the poll be closed; and if any judge of an election, or other person, after any ballot shall be delivered in as aforesaid, and before the poll is closed, shall unfold or open any such ballot, with design to discover the name or names therein contained, every person so offending shall forfeit and pay the sum of fifty dollars; and if any voter shall offer any more than one ballot, with a fraudulent design, every such person shall forfeit and pay the sum of twenty dollars for every such offence.

When the poll is closed, judges to open the box publicly, &c.

13. AND BE IT ENACTED, That when the poll shall be closed, the box wherein the ballots are deposited shall be immediately thereafter opened by the judge or judges of the election, and the said judge or judges shall publicly, in the presence of such persons as may choose to attend, carefully take out the said ballots, and read distinctly and aloud the name or names written or printed thereon respectively, and the clerks of such election shall carefully enter and keep an account of the same on the books of the polls, so that the number of votes for each candidate tallied thereon may be readily cast up and known; and if upon opening any of the said ballots there be found any more names written or printed on any of them than there ought to be, or if any two or more of such ballots or papers be deceitfully folded together, or if the purpose for which the vote is given is not plainly designated as within directed, such ballots shall be rejected, and not counted.

Judges to make out certificates of the number of votes given to each candidate, &c. on the books of the polls.

14. AND BE IT ENACTED, That as soon as the ballots shall be read off and counted, and the number for each candidate reckoned up and ascertained, the judge or judges of the election shall make out, under his or their hands, attested by the clerks of the election, or one of them, on the books of the polls, two plain, fair and distinct statements and certificates of the number of votes which shall have been then and there given for each candidate, distinguishing the station or office for which he has been voted, which numbers shall be expressed in words at length, and not in figures only, according to the form following, or to the like effect to wit: "State of Maryland, — county, to wit: We the undersigned, duly appointed by the levy court of said county, or by a justice of the peace, and the voters, (as the case may be,) in due form of law, judge or judges of the elections in district No. —, do hereby certify and return, that we did attend on the — Monday of —, in the year eighteen hundred and —, at —, the place by law appointed for holding the elections within said district, and did then and there appoint — and — clerks of the election, who severally qualified as directed by law; we further certify, that we did then and there, before a justice of the peace of said county, (or before one of said clerks, as the case may be,) qualify as judge or judges of the election, as by law directed, and did then and there, at the hour of — o'clock in the morning, open the polls for an election for four delegates to represent said county in the general assembly, (or —, as the case may be,) that we con-