

name of the voter upon their poll books. Upon receipt of his ballot the voter shall forthwith, and without leaving the enclosed space, retire alone to one of the booths or compartments and prepare his ballot by marking with an indelible pencil after the name of every person or persons for whom he intends to vote, and to the right thereof, in the blank space provided therefor, a cross—for example (x)—and in case of a question submitted to a vote of the people, by marking likewise in the appropriate space a cross-mark (x) against the answer which he desires to give. Not more than one voter shall be permitted to occupy any one booth or compartment at one time, and no voter shall remain in or occupy a booth longer than may be necessary to prepare his ballot, and in no event longer than seven minutes in case all such booths or compartments are in use and other voters are waiting to occupy the same. Before leaving the voting booth or compartment the voter shall fold his ballot without displaying the marks thereon, and in the same way it was folded when received by him, and he shall keep the same so folded until he has voted, and so that the signature or initials of the judge from whom he received it, and the name and number written on the coupon thereof, but nothing else thereon may be seen. He shall forthwith hand his said ballot to the judge at the ballot box, and shall give his name and residence and upon his being identified as the person who received said ballot, the judge shall deposit his ballot in the box, having first detached therefrom its coupon, which he shall then string upon a cord or wire to be provided for the purpose, and the said voter shall forthwith leave the enclosed space. The judges having charge of the registers shall then in the column therein headed "voted" in the same line with the name of the voter mark the word "voted" or the letter "V." No ballot without the indorsement of the name or initials of the judge thereon, as hereinbefore provided, shall be deposited in said ballot-box, but if deposited shall be counted for the purpose of ascertaining the number thereof, and the judges shall in ink mark on the back thereof the word "counted" and indorse their names.

The "blank space" is the square mentioned in section 56. *Duvall v. Miller*, 94 Md. 710.

When the absence of the judge's initials from the back of the ballot render it invalid; effect of the initials being written upon the coupon instead of the back of the ballot. *Coulehan v. White*, 95 Md. 704. And see *Leonard v. Woolford*, 91 Md. 640.

This section referred to in discussing the question of whether a bill proposing an amendment to the constitution, contained distinct legislation requiring the signature of the governor. *Warfield v. Vandiver*, 101 Md. 131 (dissenting opinion).

The act of 1865, ch. 174, referred to in discussing whether or not the registers had duly qualified. *Hardesty v. Taft*, 23 Md. 526. As to the validity of the act of 1865, ch. 174, see *Anderson v. Baker*, 23 Md. 531.

See notes to sec. 73.

1904, art. 33, sec. 67. 1896, ch. 202, sec. 62. 1901, ch. 2.

69. Assistance in marking their ballots shall be given to voters who shall declare under oath to the judges of election that by reason of blindness or physical disability they are unable without assistance to