

other person on the registry, or in registering or failing to erase the name of any fictitious, deceased or disqualified person, may at any time, either before or after the last session of the board of registry, but not later than the Saturday next preceding the election, if in the city of Baltimore, and not later than the Tuesday next preceeding the election, if in the counties, file a petition, verified by affidavit, in the circuit court for the county, or, if the cause of complaint arises in Baltimore city, in any court of Baltimore city, setting forth the ground of his application, and asking to have the registry corrected. The court shall forthwith set the petition for hearing, and direct summons to be issued requiring the board of registry to attend at the hearing or by counsel; and when the object of the petition is to strike off the name of any person alleged to be fictitious, deceased or disqualified, summons shall also be issued to such person, which shall be served by the sheriff within the time therein designated, at his place of residence given in the registry. If the petition shall allege that any person registered in any precinct does not reside in such precinct, it shall be sufficient for the petitioner to show that the person to whose registration he objects did not at the time when he was so registered reside at the particular house or place described as his residence on the registry; but the person to whose registration objection is so made shall have the right to show by affirmative proof that, although he may not have had a legal residence at the place described by him as his residence at the time of his registration, he had at such time a legal residence in the said precinct. In determining whether any person is or is not a resident of any voting precinct, it shall be presumed that if a person is shown to have acquired a residence in one locality, he retains the same until it is affirmatively shown that he has acquired a residence in another locality, and it shall also be presumed that if a person is shown not to reside at the dwelling given in the entries relating to him on the registration books, he is not a resident of the said precinct, unless it should be affirmatively shown that he is such resident, and the entries made in such registration books shall not be considered by the court as evidence of any fact therein stated, but the case shall be heard *de novo*. At the hearing, evidence subject only to the ordinary rules of evidence (as modified by the provisions of this section), may be introduced for or against the application, and the judge shall dispose of the matter summarily by granting or refusing the order prayed, and the clerk of the court shall make a minute of the proceeding. The cost of proceed-