

he does not intend thereby to change his residence, but that he has a fixed and definite purpose to return to this State on or before six months preceding the next succeeding election in November; acknowledged before me—(signature of clerk, seal of court;”) and if the persons making such affidavits shall fail so to return and take up their actual abode, domicile, dwelling-place and habitation in this State on or before six months next preceding such November election, they shall be conclusively presumed to have abandoned such declared intention and shall thereupon become disqualified to vote in this State, and the officers of registration shall refuse to register them as qualified voters, or shall strike off their names from the registry if their names be entered thereon; the clerk before whom such affidavit shall be made, shall retain, index and record the same, and shall be entitled to demand and receive for each acknowledgment the sum of thirty cents, and for indexing and recording the affidavits and acknowledgments thereto, the same compensation as is allowed by law for indexing and recording deeds, such costs to be paid to said clerks by the county commissioners and mayor and city council of Baltimore respectively; such affidavits shall not be admissible in evidence as evidence of the right of the persons making the same to registration, unless they are recorded within five days from the date of the acknowledgment thereto, and a duly certified copy thereof shall be receivable in evidence in the same manner as a certified copy of a deed; false swearing in any of such affidavits shall be deemed to be perjury, and shall be punishable as perjury is by the Code of Public General Laws, article twenty-seven, title “Crimes and Punishments,” sub-title “Perjury;” said officers of registration shall require the production of such affidavits duly recorded, or a duly certified copy thereof in all cases where they shall have reason to suspect that the person applying to be registered as a qualified voter has lost his residence by reason of his removal from the State as hereinbefore mentioned, and they may also in such cases put any question which they may deem proper to such applicant, concerning the place where he dwelt in the county or legislative district before such removal out of the State, his occupation before such removal and since, the time when he so removed, and when he returned, and all other pertinent facts and circumstances touching the right of such person to be registered, and they may require the truth of the answers of all persons to such questions to be corroborated by independent evidence if in their discretion they shall think proper; and if in answer to their questions or upon testimony produced before them it shall appear to their satisfaction that the person applying to be registered had left the State without any intention of returning, or with the intention of returning at some indefinite time in the future he shall not be entitled to be registered as a legal voter.

False
swearing,
how pun-
ished.

16. The officers of registration appointed for any precinct of