

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 costs of proceedings in all such appeal cases shall from and after the passage of this act be one-half of those provided for and usual under existing law. If the board of registry shall have returned the registers to the supervisors of elections, a certified copy of any such order granted by the court shall be delivered to said supervisors, who shall, thereupon, make the required correction upon the proper registers, and under the head of "Remarks," note that the same was made under such order of court. The court may enforce any such order by attachment, as in proceedings for contempt. No person admitted to the registry by order of court shall be protected by such order if prosecuted for false registration or false voting. In all such cases, the petitioner may be represented by counsel, and in disposing of the petition, the court shall have discretion to impose the costs upon the petitioner, the County Commissioners or the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore or the board of registry or any member or members thereof, as justice and equity may require; but no attorney's appearance fee shall be taxed as part of such costs. In Baltimore city, the Supreme Bench shall, from time to time, assign a judge or judges before whom, or any of whom, such petitions shall be heard, and neither party shall have any right of removal. Exceptions may be taken to any ruling of the court at the hearing of any such petitions and appeal allowed to the Court of Appeals, as in other cases; all such appeals shall be taken within five days from the date of the decision complained of, and shall be heard and decided by the Court of

Right of
appeal.