

indebted as alleged, or that the defendant never promised as alleged, under either of which forms of plea all matters of defence and discharge shall be admissible in evidence, except any matters which could only be availed of by a special plea, or by a more express denial than such general issue plea, in an action of assumpsit prior to the enactment of this section.

And the provisions of this section shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the pleadings when the defendant relies upon matter *ex contractu* in a plea of set off.

Approved April 10th, 1918.

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### CHAPTER 393.

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact with amendments Section 15 of Article 33 of Bagby's Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland, title "Elections," sub-title "Registration," and to exempt Anne Arundel County from certain provisions thereof.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Section 15 of Article 33 of Bagby's Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland, title "Elections," sub-title "Registration," be and the same is hereby repealed and re-enacted with amendments so as to read as follows:

Section 15. Each judge of election in the City of Baltimore and each of the two judges of election appointed before the first day of July in counties, as provided in Section 7, shall also be an officer of registration in the district or precinct for which he shall be appointed, and the judges so appointed when duly qualified shall for their respective districts or precincts, collectively, constitute the board of registry thereof. Said officers of registration, and each of them, in addition to the power hereinafter conferred upon them as judges of election shall have, during the respective times of the appointed sittings of said board of registry, authority to keep the peace and to preserve order and enforce obedience to their lawful commands at and around their places of registration; to keep the access to such place open and unobstructed, to prevent and suppress riots, tumult, violence and disorder, any violation of this article, and all other improper practices at and around their place of registration tending to intimidation or to the obstruction of their work; they may compel by summons or attachment the presence of witnesses before them for any purpose connected with the duties