

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Section 157 of Article 22 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Maryland, title "Washington County," subtitle "Hagerstown," be and the same is hereby repealed and re-enacted with amendments so as to read as follows:

Section 157. In case of a vacancy in the office of Mayor, by death or otherwise, or in case any person who may have been elected Mayor at any general election, shall fail or refuse to qualify as Mayor within three days after service of notice of election, as hereinafter provided, the Council, at any general or special meeting shall elect some legally qualified person to fill the office of Mayor for any unexpired term of any vacancy caused by death or otherwise, or for the term of any person who may have refused to qualify; and in case of any election of Mayor by the Council, the person receiving a majority of the whole number of members of the Council shall be declared elected as Mayor of said town for any unexpired term, in case of a vacancy caused by death or otherwise, or for any term for which any person previously elected may have refused to qualify; and the clerk of the Mayor and Council shall immediately certify the vote so taken to elect any such successors, or to elect any person for any term so as aforesaid, under his hand and the corporate seal of the town, to the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Washington County; and the said Clerk of the Circuit Court, upon receipt thereof, shall forthwith notify the person so elected, who shall, within three days after the service of such notice, qualify by taking the oath hereinafter prescribed for town officers; and if such person elected shall fail to qualify as hereinafter provided, another election shall be held by the Council, to fill the vacancy; and until such vacancy is filled or in case of a sickness or absence of the Mayor or his inability to be present and preside at any meeting of the Council called by not less than four of its members when in their judgment such meeting is necessary, and said Councilmen are hereby authorized to call any such meeting, the Council shall choose one of its members as Mayor, who shall discharge the duties of the office protempore, and all Acts done by the Mayor and Council as thus constituted shall be valid and binding in law.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted,* That this Act shall take effect from the date of its passage, it being hereby declared to be an emergency law and necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health and safety.

Approved March 15th, 1916.