

unopened, unmarked and unchanged in any way, in packages sealed by him, to the Board named on the outside of said State Return Envelopes and to the appropriate Board disclosed by the address of the Absentee Resident on the Federal Ballot Envelope. The Secretary of State shall require each Board receiving from him Ballot Envelopes to give him receipts showing the date of such delivery and the number of Ballot Envelopes delivered.

If a State or Federal Ballot Envelope is delivered to the wrong Board, such Board shall immediately send said Ballot Envelope unopened, unmarked and unchanged in any way to the proper Board.

All Return Envelopes, both State and Federal, received by the Secretary of State after the date of any election shall be preserved by him for six months and then destroyed, unless prior to that time he be ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction to keep the same for any longer period. The receipts given the Secretary of State by the several Boards shall be also kept by him for the same period.

313. REGISTRATION OF ABSENTEE RESIDENTS. Upon receipt by a Board at any time prior to the closing of the polls on election day of a State or Federal Ballot Envelope from an Absentee Resident, said Board shall forthwith determine whether such Absentee Resident is already registered as a voter. If such Absentee Resident is registered, his Absentee Ballot shall be safely kept by the Board and counted and canvassed at the proper time as in this sub-title provided. If the Board shall determine that such Absentee is not registered or if the Board is unable to determine whether such Absentee Resident is or is not registered, said Board shall accept the information, set forth in his duly executed oath on the said Ballot Envelope, as prima facie accurate and correct, and if such information discloses that said Absentee Resident is (a) a citizen of the United States, (b) will be twenty-one years or older on the day of the election for which said ballot is offered, (c) has been a resident of Maryland for a year preceding said election, (d) has been a resident for 6 months preceding the day of said election of the election district or ward in which his residence in Maryland is located, and (e) is not disqualified to vote by the commission of crime, said Board shall register such Absentee Resident, and shall then safely keep said absentee ballot and count and canvass the same as provided in this sub-title.

The signature of such Absentee Resident in subscribing said oath shall be accepted in lieu of the customary signature of voters in the registration books or cards; provided, however,