

tion 58 of said Article, relating to the division and/or combination of Soil Conservation Districts.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That a new section be and it is hereby added to Article 2A of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1939 Edition), title "Agriculture", sub-title "Soil Conservation Districts", said new section to be known as Section 58A, to follow immediately after Section 58 of said Article, and to read as follows:

58A. (Division or Combination of Districts.) Any district or districts organized under the provisions of this sub-title may be divided, or combined with any other district or districts, or divided and combined with any other district or districts, in the following manner:

A. At least twenty-five (25) land-occupiers of each district to be affected by the proposed division and/or combination shall sign and file with the State Soil Conservation Committee a petition requesting that the district or districts, as the case may be, and the operations thereof, be divided, or combined, or divided and combined, in the manner requested. The Committee shall prescribe the form for such petitions, which shall be as nearly as may be in the form described in this sub-title for petitions to organize a district. The Committee may conduct such public meetings and public hearings upon such petition as may be necessary to assist it in the consideration thereof. The Committee may define in more detail the boundaries outlined in the petitions for the districts proposed to result from the division and/or combination.

B. Within sixty (60) days after such petition has been filed with the State Soil Conservation Committee, it shall give due notice of the holding of a referendum, and shall supervise and conduct such referendum, and issue appropriate regulations governing the conduct thereof. Each occupier of land lying within the district or districts to be affected shall be entitled to vote; and only such land-occupiers shall be entitled to vote. The State Soil Conservation Committee shall make provision on the referendum for each land-occupier to vote (1) on whether or not he approves of the proposed division, if any, of the district in which his land is located, and (2) on whether or not he approves of the proposed new district in which his land will be located under the proposed combination, if any. No informalities in the conduct of such referendum or in any matters relating thereto shall invalidate said referendum or the result thereof if notice shall have been given substantially as herein provided and said referendum shall have been fairly conducted.