

or the District of Columbia, or of the United States, or of any other country directly or indirectly, by itself, or through any officer, agent or employe, representative, or other person whatsoever, to give, contribute, furnish, lend or promise any money, property, transportation, means or aid to any political party, or any candidate for public office, or for nomination thereto, or to any political organization, or to any political committee, or to any treasurer or political agent, as herein defined, either directly or indirectly, to aid, promote or influence the success or defeat of any political party or principle, or of any measure or proposition submitted to a vote at a public election or primary election in this State, or to aid, promote or influence in any manner the election or defeat of a candidate therein, or to be used, applied or expended in any way whatever for political purposes. The president, the several directors and every other officer of any corporation which shall violate any of the provisions of this section, and the president or director, or other officer, or agent of any corporation, who shall personally violate any of the provisions of this section, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be punished by a fine of not more than five thousand dollars for each offense, and imprisonment for not more than three years in jail or in the penitentiary.

158. At any time within thirty days after any election or primary election held under the laws of this State, any defeated candidate at such election, or any ten duly qualified voters at such election, may present to the Circuit Court of any county, or to the Superior Court of Baltimore City, a petition setting forth under oath that corrupt practices, contrary to the provisions of any section of this Article, were committed at or preliminary to such election, within the county or city aforesaid, naming the successful candidate or candidates as defendants, and praying that the facts alleged may be inquired into. The Court, upon said petition and the affidavit or affidavits filed therewith, shall promptly order such reasonable notice of such petition to be given to the defendant or defendants, and require him or them, within as short a time as may be reasonable, to answer, show cause or otherwise defend as the Court may deem just and reasonable, upon the petitioners giving security for costs in such sum of money as the Court shall deem reasonable. Such petition shall be tried without a jury, unless any of the parties thereto shall elect to have the same tried by a jury. The case shall be tried not later than fifteen days after such petition has been filed and within such period if possible, and shall be given priority over other Court business, and when a jury trial is demanded by any of the parties to such petition, the jury for said term shall try it; and if the jury for said term shall have been dismissed, the Court shall recall said jury for the purpose of trying said