

fication, to the voters of Hagerstown at a special election before the next succeeding general election or at the next succeeding general election, provided that such Charter amendment, Charter revision or new Charter shall be submitted to the Council at least sixty days before any general election at which such amendment, revision or new Charter is to be submitted to the voters. A Charter amendment, Charter revision, or new Charter, so proposed, when approved by a majority of the voters voting thereon, shall have the force of law, subject to the Constitution and General Laws of the State of Maryland.

111. If any section or part of section of this Charter shall be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not affect the remainder of this Charter nor the context in which such section or part of section so held invalid may appear, except to the extent that an entire section or part of section may be inseparably connected in meaning and effect with the section or part of section to which such holding shall directly apply.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That before this Act shall become effective, the question shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the city of Hagerstown at the regular municipal general election to be held in said city on the fourth Tuesday in March, 1949. There shall be placed on the official ballots the words "For New Charter" and the words "Against New Charter," with a square or box to the right of and opposite each such set of words so that the said voters shall be able to designate by a cross-mark in the proper square or box their decision for or against this question. If a majority of the qualified votes cast on said question shall be cast "For New Charter," this Act shall become effective immediately. If a majority of the qualified votes cast on said question shall be cast "Against New Charter," this Act shall not become effective and shall be wholly null and void.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That this Act is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health and safety and having been passed by a yea and nay vote, supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, the same shall take effect from the date of its passage.

Approved March 31, 1949.