

rather than to territorial limits. The Vestry Act of 1798 governed all the then existing Parishes of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Maryland. Subsequently, however, the Legislature passed the General Religious Act of 1802 and thereafter some of the Protestant Episcopal Churches in the State of Maryland have been incorporated either under the General Act of 1802, or by separate Acts of Assembly, and in either case are sometimes hereinafter referred to as "Separate Congregations." By authority of the Convention given by the original Vestry Act of 1798 some of the original Parishes have been divided into two or more separate Parishes. Some of the Parishes or Separate Congregations were created under the original Vestry Act or otherwise, as above mentioned, prior to the Maryland Constitution of 1851, and thus may have irrevocable charters, but some of them have been formed since the effective date of the Constitution of 1851. Therefore

SECTION 1. *Beit enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That twenty-two (22) new sections be and they are hereby added to Article 23 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1939 Edition & 1947 Supplement), title "Corporations," sub-title "Religious Corporations," said new Sections to be known as Sections 291C to 291X, inclusive, to be under the sub-heading "Protestant Episcopal Church," to follow immediately after Section 291B of said Article, SAID SECTIONS TO BE APPLICABLE AND EFFECTIVE ONLY IN BALTIMORE CITY AND IN GARRETT, ALLEGANY, WASHINGTON, FREDERICK, CARROLL, BALTIMORE, HARFORD, HOWARD, ANNE ARUNDEL AND CALVERT COUNTIES, and to read as follows:

291C. The Vestries shall be chosen for each Parish or separate Congregation within the State, subject to this Act in the following manner: Every MALE male citizen of this State, over 21 years of age, a resident of the Parish or enrolled member of the Church Congregation where he offers to vote for six months next preceding the day of election, who shall have been entered on the books of said Parish or Church Congregation one month at least preceding the day of election, as a member of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and who shall have contributed to the charges of the said Parish or Church in which he offers to vote a sum not less than \$2.00 annually paid not less than 30 days before said election, shall have the right of suffrage for the election of Vestrymen for each such Parish or Church.