

217. *Filing and Taking Effect of Rules.*

(a) *Each agency shall comply with the provisions of Section 9 of this Article, and any amendments thereto. Each agency shall file forthwith with the Clerk of the Court of Appeals, with the Secretary of State and with the Department of Legislative Reference certified copies of all rules now in effect. The Secretary of State shall keep a permanent register of such rules open to public inspection.*

(b) *Each rule hereafter adopted shall become effective upon filing, unless a later date is required by statute or specified in the rule.*

218. *Publication of Rules.*

(a) *The Secretary of State shall, as soon as practicable after the effective date of this sub-title, compile, index, and publish all rules adopted by each agency and remaining in effect. Compilations shall be supplemented or revised as often as necessary (and at least once every two years).*

(b) *The Secretary of State shall publish a semi-annual bulletin in which he shall set forth the text of all rules filed during the preceding six months, excluding rules in effect upon the adoption of this sub-title.*

(c) *The Secretary may in his discretion omit from the bulletin or the compilation rules the publication of which would be unduly cumbersome, expensive or otherwise inexpedient, if such rules are made available in printed or processed form on application to the adopting agency, and if the bulletin or compilation contains a notice stating the general subject matter of the rules so omitted and stating how copies thereof may be obtained.*

(d) *Bulletins and compilations shall be made available upon request to ~~officials~~ THE HEADS OF ALL DEPARTMENTS, BUREAUS, AGENCIES, COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS of this State free of charge, and to other persons at a price fixed by the Secretary of State to cover publication and mailing costs.*

219. *Petition for Adoption of Rules. Any interested person may petition an agency requesting the promulgation, amendment, or repeal of any rule. Each agency shall prescribe by rule the form for such petitions and the procedure for their submission, consideration, and disposition.*

220. *Declaratory Judgment on Validity of Rules.*

(a) *The validity of any rule may be determined upon petition for a declaratory judgment thereon addressed to the Circuit Court of the particular county or to the Baltimore City Court ~~where the petitioner resides or has~~ EITHER WHERE THE PETITIONER RESIDES OR HAS HIS OR its principal place of business, when it appears that the rule, or its threatened application, interferes with or impairs, or threatens to interfere with or impair, the legal rights or privileges of the petitioner. The agency shall be made a party to the proceeding. The declaratory judgment may be rendered whether or not the petitioner has first requested the agency to pass upon the validity of the rule in question.*