

from an Absentee Resident, said Board shall forthwith determine whether such Absentee Resident is already registered as a voter. If such Absentee Resident is registered, his Absentee Ballot shall be safely kept by the Board and counted and canvassed at the proper time as in this sub-title provided. If the Board shall determine that such Absentee Resident is not registered or if the Board is unable to determine whether such Absentee Resident is or is not registered, said Board shall accept the information, set forth in his duly executed oath on the said Ballot Envelope, as *prima facie* accurate and correct, and if such information disclose that said Absentee Resident is (1) a citizen of the United States, (2) will be twenty-one years or older on the day of the election for which said ballot is offered, (3) has been a resident of Maryland for a year preceding said election, (4) has been a resident for 6 months preceding the day of said election of the election district or ward in which his residence in Maryland is located, and (5) is not disqualified to vote by the commission of a crime, said Board shall register such Absentee Resident, and shall then safely keep said Absentee Ballot and count and canvass the same as provided in this sub-title. In primary elections, the fulfillment of requirements as to age and length of residence set forth in (2), (3) and (4), shall be determined as of the date of the general election for which said primary election is held.

(b) *Signatures; Oaths.* The signature of such Absentee Resident in subscribing said oath shall be accepted in lieu of the customary signature of voters in the registration books or cards; provided, however, that such Absentee Residents shall not be entitled to be registered if said Board shall determine upon proof or investigation that any of the material information contained in said oath is not true. The names of all persons whom the appropriate Boards determine are entitled to be registered under this sub-title shall be written on the appropriate registration books or cards by the Clerks of the respective Boards, or by election officials designated by said Boards, and after each name shall be placed the letters "A. R.". In addition, the other information usually placed on the registration books or cards shall be entered to the extent the same is contained in said oath. Each Board shall retain for a period of three years all oaths of Absentee Residents registered by them, and such oaths shall be considered the best evidence of the facts recited therein in any contest involving the validity of any registration hereunder.

(c) *Continued Registration.* When properly registered under this sub-title, an Absentee Resident shall continue as a registered voter to the same extent and for the same period he would be registered had he appeared in person and been registered under the provisions of the election laws of Maryland, exclusive of this sub-title.

255. Honorably Discharged Absentees. No honorably discharged Absentee Resident, referred to in sub-section (d) of Section 243 of this sub-title, who has been discharged more than one month before the last registration day prior to an election, shall be entitled to register under this sub-title. Any honorably discharged Absentee Resident, referred to in said sub-section (d), who has been discharged later than one month before the last registration day prior to an election, shall be entitled to register and vote, if otherwise entitled to do so under this sub-title, and if on or before election day, he delivers in person a written application to the Board of his county or Baltimore City, as the case may be, for a ballot, ballot