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(a) Any voter may file with the board of supervisors of elections [.] or with the permanent board of registry [, or with any supplemental board of registry which the board of supervisors may appoint,] objections to the registration of any person whom such voter has reason to believe is not eligible to vote, or a request for the addition of any person whose name has been erroneously omitted or dropped from the registration list of any precinct. Application for the correction of any such precinct registration list or a challenge of the right to vote of a person named on such list may be made by any qualified voter of the county or city, as the case may be, at the office of the Board of Supervisors of Elections in Baltimore City or in the counties on or before the Tuesday [three] sixteen weeks preceding such election [, and in the counties five weeks preceding such election]. Such applications or challenges shall be made on forms provided by the board for that purpose. Thereon the voter shall state, under oath and of his own personal knowledge, the reason for the application or challenge. Thereafter the voter so applying or challenging shall be required to appear in person at the time of the hearing on the application or challenge as provided for in subsection (b) of this section and for wilful failure to so appear shall be subject to the penalties provided for in Section 199 of this article.

(b) In Baltimore City, two members of the Board of Supervisors of opposite political parties, and in the respective counties the two members of the permanent board of registry [of such supplemental boards of registry, consisting each of two persons of opposite political parties, as may be appointed, if deemed necessary, by the board of supervisors], shall sit for the purpose of hearing applications for changes in such registration lists, or challenges of the right to vote on such lists. They shall meet on the Tuesday [two] fourteen weeks before an election in Baltimore City, and [on the Tuesday four weeks before an election] in the counties, at such hours as the board of supervisors may designate. If all such applications or challenges be not determined on that day, they shall sit during the same hours on succeeding days until all cases are heard and decided. If it is not possible to hear all such cases within [one week from the time when such sessions shall commence] two days, the board of supervisors may appoint one or more boards, each consisting of two members of opposite political parties, to aid in hearing such applications or challenges at a compensation fixed as provided in [Section 5] Sections 5 and 6 of this article. Persons whose right to register has been challenged and persons whose names are alleged to have been erroneously omitted or dropped from the registration lists shall be given written notice, sent by mail, addressed to the voter at the last address given [in the registry and, in addition, a similar notice shall be served on such voter by a member of the board, or one of the judges in the precinct in which such voter is registered or by a police officer, and, if such voter cannot be found at the address shown in the registry, or otherwise found in such precinct where registered, the notice shall be left at the address shown in the registry] on his registration form. Any voter so notified may appear in person or by counsel. At the request of either party, the board shall issue subpoenas to witnesses to appear at such hearings, who shall be sworn and examined. All cases shall be decided immediately after hearing. No voter as to whom an application or a challenge has been made shall be removed from the registration lists unless the application or