

the same for record and indorse thereon the date and time of such receipt and promptly record the same, together with the indorsements thereon. After the recording by it of such instrument, the [State Tax Commission] *Department* shall transmit [a copy thereof duly certified by] it to the clerk of the circuit or superior court [where the church, society or congregation, or the greater part of the members thereof reside in the case of a plan, agreement, regulation or articles of amendment under secs. 263 or 264, or where the congregation shall have or possess a place of worship in the case of a certificate of incorporation or articles of amendment under secs. 271 or 273.] *of the county in which such corporation's principal place of worship is located* by whom the same shall be again recorded. One-quarter of the recording fees collected shall be paid by the [State Tax Commission] *Department* for recording such instrument to the clerk of the circuit or superior court to whom a copy thereof is transmitted, and for the balance it shall account quarterly to the Comptroller and pay the same forthwith to the State Treasurer for the use of the State.

(2) Trustees or corporators not to become body corporate until compliance with subsection (1) of this section.—When any such plan, agreement, regulation or certificate of incorporation has been so delivered for record to the [State Tax Commission] *Department* with the recording fee for which provision is hereinbefore made, and not before, the trustees under sec. [262] 263 or the corporators under sec. 271, as the case may be, shall become and be a body corporate by the name therein stated. When any such articles of amendment have been so delivered for record to the [State Tax Commission] *Department* with said recording fee, and not before, the amendment or amendments made thereby shall take effect.

(3) Recording as evidence of existence.—A duly certified copy of any of the foregoing instruments from the records of the [State Tax Commission] *Department* or the clerk of the circuit or superior court shall be evidence of the existence of the corporation and of its right to exercise the powers therein mentioned, or of the amendment or amendments provided therein, as the case may be. The recording by the [State Tax Commission] *Department* of any such instrument shall be conclusive evidence of the payment of the recording fee required by law to be paid to it, except in a direct proceeding by the State.

270. Amendment of charter by special acts prohibited.

In order to carry out the purpose and spirit of secs. 33 and 48 of Article III of the Constitution of Maryland and in order to prevent the enactment of special laws, amending the charters of religious corporations heretofore incorporated by the special act, no bill shall hereafter be introduced at the General Assembly of Maryland for the purpose of amending the charter of any such religious corporation. Every such corporation, desiring to amend or change its charter, shall adopt articles of amendment and deliver the same for record to the [State Tax Commission] *Department* in accordance with the provisions of secs. 264 or 273, and 269 of this article.

271. Incorporation of congregations.

In every congregation of the denomination of Christians known as the "Roman Catholic Church," the ordinary and the vicar-general