

*local public office for political advertising a rate in excess of the regular local rate regularly charged by such person or corporation for commercial advertising except that when such political advertising is placed with the person or corporation through the medium of an advertising or press agency, then the regular national rate regularly charged by such person or corporation for commercial advertising may be charged.*

*(d) Violation of this section is a misdemeanor and any person so convicted is subject to the penalties provided in Section ~~24-27~~ of this article 26-20 OF THIS SUBTITLE.*

*26-18. Procedure on petition.*

*(a) Petition.—At any time within thirty days after any election held under the laws of this State, any defeated candidate at such election, or any ten duly qualified voters at such election, may present to the circuit court of any county, or to the Superior Court of Baltimore City, a petition setting forth under oath that prohibited practices, contrary to the provisions of a specified section or sections of this article, were committed by the successful candidate or candidates or in the person of his or their agent or agents at or preliminary to such election, within the county or city in which said petition was filed, naming the successful candidate or candidates as defendants, and praying that the fact alleged may be inquired into.*

*(b) Notice and answer.—The court, upon the giving by the petitioners of such security for costs as the court shall deem reasonable and upon such petition and the affidavit or affidavits filed therewith, shall promptly order such reasonable notice of such petition to be given to the defendant or defendants, and require him or them, within as short a time as may be reasonable, to answer, show cause, or otherwise defend as the court may deem just and reasonable.*

*(c) Trial.—Such petition shall be tried without a jury, unless any of the parties thereto shall elect to have the same tried by a jury. The case shall be tried not later than fifteen days after such petition has been filed if possible, and shall be given priority over other court business, and when a jury trial is demanded by any of the parties to such petition, the jury for said term shall try it; and if the jury for said term shall have been dismissed, the court shall recall said jury for the purpose of trying said case. In every case in which a jury trial shall be demanded, the judge shall frame and submit to the jury for its decision and verdict all appropriate and necessary issues of fact presented by the pleadings in such case. The court shall bring said cause to determination and judgment as speedily as a just regard for the rights of the parties concerned may permit and shall expeditiously inquire into, or, when a jury is demanded, cause the jury to inquire into all the facts and circumstances and into such violations of or failure to comply with the provisions of this article, as may be alleged in any such petition.*

*(d) Judge to file findings with Secretary of State in certain cases; duty of Secretary of State.—In case such petition relates to the election of electors of President and Vice-President of the United States, a Senator of the United States, a Representative in Congress, or the Governor or Attorney General, or a Senator or Delegate to the General Assembly of Maryland, or a judge, or a clerk of a court of law,*