

laws of this State concerning the appointment, qualification, application, term, renewal commission, fees, and functions of notaries public, and providing for the powers and duties of certain other State officials in relation thereto.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That Section 1 of Article 68 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1968 Supplement), title "Notaries Public," be and it is hereby repealed, and that a new Section 1 be and it is hereby enacted in lieu thereof, to stand in the place of the section so repealed; that a new Section 2 be and it is hereby added to said Article 68, to follow immediately after Section 1 thereof, and all to read as follows:*

1. *Appointment, Qualification, Applications, Term, Renewal, Commission, Fees.*

(a) *Appointment. The Governor, on approval of the application by a Senator representing the senatorial district and subdistrict in which the applicant resides, shall appoint and commission in his discretion and judgment any number of persons as notaries public, as provided herein.*

(b) *Qualification. Every person appointed shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age, of good moral character and integrity, a citizen of the United States, a resident in this State for a period of two (2) years prior to appointment, and a resident of the senatorial district and subdistrict from which he or she is appointed. The residence requirements shall not apply to persons having an appointment as an official court reporter by any court of any county or Baltimore City.*

(c) *Applications. Applications for original appointment as a notary public shall be made on forms prepared by the Secretary of State and shall be sworn to by the applicant, and must bear thereon or be accompanied by the written approval of a Senator representing the senatorial district and subdistrict in which the applicant resides. Completed applications shall be filed with the Secretary of State. When the appointment is made by the Governor, the Secretary of State shall so notify the applicant.*

(d) *Term. Appointments made and commissions issued following the effective date of the Act shall be for a term ending ~~December 31, 1973~~, JULY 1, 1974, and ~~December 31~~ JULY 1 of each fourth year thereafter. Terms which commenced on or after July 1, 1967, are extended to ~~December 31, 1969~~, JULY 1, 1970.*

(e) *Renewal, Revocation, Reinstatement. Notary public commissions shall MAY be renewed from term to term, and the Secretary of State shall issue notice of renewal to the notary public at or prior to the expiration of the term of the existing commission. Within thirty (30) days after the issuance by the Secretary of State of notice of appointment or renewal the notary public shall qualify before the appropriate clerk of the court and pay the fees herein prescribed. The appointment and commission of any notary public who fails to qualify and pay the fees within said time shall stand revoked, and in such case the court clerk shall return the commission of the notary public to the Secretary of State with a certification that the notary public failed to qualify and pay the fees within the required time, but the Secretary of State for good cause shown may reinstate the appointment and commission.*