

matters generally related to filing fees, certificates of nomination, certificates of candidacy, nomination of candidates by petition, nomination of candidates at primary elections, filling vacancies in nominations, party conventions, the adoption and filing of interim and permanent constitutions and by-laws by political parties, party central committees and national conventions by political parties; and for other matters and provisions generally relating thereto.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Sections 1-1(a)(8A), 1-1(a)(15), 4-1, 4A-1, 4A-4(d), 5-1, 7-1(a), 7-1(b), 8-1, 9-2, 9-4, 10-1, 11-1(a), 11-1(d), 11-2(a), 11-2(b), 11-3(a), and 12-2(a) of Article 33 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, (~~1967 Replacement Volume and 1970 Supplement~~), (1971 REPLACEMENT VOLUME), title "Election Code" be and they are hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments; to repeal Sections 4A-6 (e) and 6-1 of said Article of said Code; to add new Section 3-9A thereto, to follow immediately after Section 3-9 thereof; to add new Section 4B-1 to said Code to be under the new subtitle "New Political Parties," and to follow immediately after Section 4A-8 thereof; to add new Section 4C-1 to said Code to be under the new subtitle "Loss of Status as Political Party," to follow immediately after new Section 4B-1 thereof; to add new Section 9A-1 to said Code to be under the new subtitle "Party Designation on Ballot," to follow immediately after Section 9-5 thereof; and to add new Section 12-1 (c) thereto, to follow immediately after Section 12-1 (b) thereof; and all to read as follows:

1-1.

(a)(8A) "Independent" means any voter who has declined to affiliate with a political party [entitled to nominate candidates at a primary election or in a primary meeting].

(15) "Party" or "political party" as used in this article shall mean [s] an organized group of the electorate that attempts to control government through the election of its candidates to office [], and which either:

(i) shall have polled one percentum or more of the entire vote cast in the State in the general election held in the State on either November 5, 1968 or November 3, 1970; or

(ii) shall have filed a valid Petition for the formation of a political party pursuant to Section 4B-1 of this article. But, if any such party shall lose its status as a political party pursuant to the provisions of Section 4C-1 of this article, then it shall cease to be a "party" or "political party" for purposes of this article.

3-9A. Reports of registration by boards; statement of registration by State Administrative Board of Election Laws.

(a) Reports of Registration.—Within fifteen days after the commencement of the six month period before a primary election in which voters already registered shall not be allowed to affiliate with a party or change party affiliation for purposes of this article, pursuant to Section 3-8(b) of this article, the board for each county of the State and for the City of Baltimore shall submit to the State