

illness or injury which confines him to a hospital or causes him to be confined to bed, the voter is now, or will be, prevented from voting personally at the election. The *application shall be filed* [certificate shall be received and filed, together with the application,] in the office of the board of supervisors of elections not later than seven (7) days prior to any election. [Thereafter] Upon receipt of the application the board shall mail to the voter entitled thereto an absentee ballot. In all other respects, absentee voting as provided for in this section shall be similar to and controlled by the applicable procedure provided by law for absentee voting.

(a-1) Emergency absentee ballot. Within seven (7) days of an election and on the day of the election prior to the time the polls close, any person registered and otherwise qualified to vote may apply for an emergency absentee ballot if, as a condition of his employment, he is required to be absent from the county or Baltimore City where he is registered to vote on the day of an election, or is unable to be physically present at the polls as a result of illness or accident occurring after the time of making application for an absentee ballot. The application shall be made under *penalty of perjury but without formal oath*, setting forth the reason why the voter is unable to be present at the polls on the day of the election and shall be accompanied by a statement under oath by the voter's employer stating that the voter will be unable to vote on election day because of absence caused by his employment, or a certificate from a duly licensed physician stating that the voter, because of illness or injury, is confined to the hospital or bed and will be unable to vote in person at the polls, whichever is applicable. Upon receipt of the application, the board, if satisfied that the person cannot, in fact, be present at the polling place on the day of the election, shall issue to the applicant, or his duly authorized agent, an absentee ballot which shall be marked by the voter, placed in a sealed envelope, and returned to the board. If the applicant does not apply in person, the application shall designate ~~an individual eighteen (18) years old or older~~ [a voter registered in the same county or Baltimore City] as agent for the purpose of delivering the absentee ballot to the voter, and the agent shall execute an affidavit under *penalty of perjury* that the ballot was delivered to the voter who submitted the application, was marked by the voter in the agent's presence, was placed in a sealed envelope in the agent's presence, and returned, under seal, to the board by the agent. [For the purposes of this subsection duly authorized agent shall mean the voter's employer, supervisor, attorney, or member of the voter's immediate family.] Any emergency absentee ballot received by the board after the time for closing of the polls shall not be counted.

(b) Any otherwise qualified voter who is blind, physically disabled or who has impaired vision and is for one of these reasons unable to mark his absentee ballot and sign the required oath, may be assisted in voting by any person selected by the voter. Any person rendering assistance pursuant to this subsection shall execute the certification set forth in Section 27-8 (h) of this article.

27-4.

(a) A qualified voter desiring to vote at any election as an absentee voter shall make application in writing to the board for an absentee ballot, which application must be received not later than