

Constitution, which lowered the voting age from 21 to 18; to make certain technical corrections to the Election Code in order to conform with the requirements of the Federal Voting Assistance Act of 1955, as amended; and relating generally to making technical corrections to the Election Code in order to conform to federal law.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Sections 3-4 (b), 3-5, 3-7 (b) (1) and (5), 3-18 (a) (1) and (3), 3-24 (b) and 27-5 (b) (1) of Article 33 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Replacement Volume and 1971 Supplement), title "Election Code", subtitles "Registration of Voters—General Provisions," "REGISTRATION OF VOTERS—HOW AND BY WHOM CONDUCTED," and "Absentee Voting," be and they are hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

3-4.

(b) The constitutional qualifications of voters are the following; each one of which is applicable to every voter:

(2) Age of **[twenty-one]** *eighteen* years or older **[, except for federal offices when the age shall be eighteen years or older]** ;

3-5.

[(a)] Any person who will be **[twenty-one]** *eighteen* years of age on or before the day of any general or special election shall be entitled to vote at such general or special election, and shall also be entitled to vote at the primary election preceding such general or special election, if otherwise entitled to be registered as a qualified voter. Any such person shall be entitled to register to vote at any time provided for registration of voters during such election year.

[(b)] Any person who will be 18 years of age on or before the day of any general or special election shall be entitled to vote at such general or special election for those persons seeking federal office and shall also be entitled to vote for those persons seeking federal office at the primary election preceding such general or special election, if otherwise entitled to register as a qualified voter. Any such person shall be entitled to register to vote at any time provided for registration of voters during such election year.]

3-7.

(b) Any constitutionally qualified voter in the following categories shall be allowed to register and reregister by casting his absentee ballot:

(1) A member of any branch of the armed forces of the United States or any component thereof, including those honorably discharged therefrom **[within]** *during the period beginning thirty (30) days prior to the last registration day prior to an election and CONTINUING UP TO AND INCLUDING the date of the election,* and including his spouse or dependents;

(5) Any citizen and resident who is continuously absent from his county of residence, or, in the case of a resident of the City of Baltimore, from Baltimore City for the thirty (30) days prior to the closing of registration before any election, *either of whom may apply*