

subtitles "Definitions," "Voting Machines," and "Absentee Voting"; and to add new section 1-1(a) (16A) to Article 33 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Replacement Volume and 1971 Supplement), title "Election Code," subtitle "Definitions," to follow immediately after Section 1-1(a) (16) thereof; to amend the Election Code to provide for the use of computer punchcards as an alternative method for voting an absentee ballot, AND CORRECTING CERTAIN ERRORS THEREIN.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Sections 1-1(a) (1), 16-5(b), 27-7(a) and (b) and 27-8(a), (b), (d) and (f) of Article 33 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Replacement Volume and 1971 Supplement), title "Election Code," subtitles "Definitions," "Voting Machines," and "Absentee Voting" be and they are hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

1-1.

(a) As used in this article the following terms shall have the meanings indicated unless a contrary meaning is clearly intended from the context in which the term appears:

(1) "Ballot" or "ballots" means paper ballots [or] , *ballots consisting of one or more punchcards*, absentee ballots, or the labels which appear on the face of voting machines, whichever *in context* would be appropriate.

16-5.

(b) All candidates for *the same* office shall as far as possible be placed in one column on the ballots; but when the names to be printed on paper ballots are over thirty-six [; or] , on voting machines when the required number of spaces assigned to each party or office are exhausted, *or on punchcard ballots when the number of candidates for an office exceeds the number of spaces available on one side of a punchcard*, another column *or punchcard side, as appropriate*, may be [added] used in *or on* which names shall be printed. When two or more columns *or punchcard sides* are used for the names of candidates for the same office, the same number of names, so far as possible, shall be printed in each column *or on each punchcard side*. The initial letters of the given or Christian names of the several candidates in each column shall be printed directly beneath each other in a vertical line, and the initial letter of the respective party designations of said several candidates shall be printed directly beneath each other in a vertical line.

27-7.

(a) In sufficient time prior to any election, the boards shall have printed an adequate number of absentee ballots, the three kinds of envelopes described in this section, and the instructions to absentee voters as set out in Section 27-8 of this article.

(1) *Absentee ballots in the discretion of the board may be in the form either of paper ballots or of one or more punchcards kept together in a covering folder, provided that all absentee ballots in any one county or Baltimore City shall be in the same form.*