

(2) *Notwithstanding any provision in this subsection, before any board may use punchcard ballots, the particular punchcard ballot system, including the form of ballot arrangement, the nature of the punchcard used, the method of marking ballots, and any sorting or counting devices must be approved for use in the State by the State Administrative Board of Election Laws. Before approving a punchcard ballot system for use in the State, the State Administrative Board of Election Laws shall be satisfied that the system is accurate, efficient and free from the likelihood of mechanical breakdowns and understandable by voters, that it is subject to recount by some other system, and that it complies with the laws of Maryland.*

(b) The ballots shall contain the words "Absentee Ballot" printed in large letters in a clear space at the top of each paper ballot [.] or of each punchcard and covering folder as the case may be. If paper ballots are used, [Underneath] underneath these words shall be printed the following warning: "Mark ballot by placing "X" in proper blank after each candidate or question. Do not erase or make identifying mark." If punchcard ballots are used, underneath these words on each punchcard shall be printed the following warning: "Mark ballot by punching out the circled cross after each candidate or question indicating your choice. Do not repair or make identifying mark." If both sides of one or more punchcards are used to accommodate the ballot, the words "vote both sides" and the other wording required by this subsection shall appear on both sides of each punchcard. Where punchcards are used, these instructions may appear on stubs attached to the cards which may be removed after the absentee voter has voted. The designation of the election district or ward and the precinct shall be left blank on paper ballots on the back and outside of said ballots and on punchcard ballots on each punchcard and on the outside of the covering folders for said ballots, and such designation shall be filed in by the appropriate board before being sent to any registered absentee voter.

27-8.

The printed instructions for the casting of absentee ballots are as follows:

Instructions to Voters

Enclosed are a State Absentee Ballot, Ballot Envelope and a Return Envelope for use in returning the ballot. Warning: Failure to follow these instructions will invalidate the ballot.

(a) (1) [Examine] if paper ballots are used, examine the ballot before marking. When once marked, do not erase. Mark the ballot with either pencil or ink by placing an (X) in the block after each candidate for whom you wish to vote and in the appropriate block after each constitutional amendment, referendum or any other question (if any appear on the ballot), for or against which you wish to vote. Do not vote for more candidates than the number specified over the names of candidates for each office. The ballot must be marked secretly. Do not sign your name or put on the ballot any mark of identification or any other mark except the (X) mark or the name of a written-in candidate.