

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That Sections 39 (a) and 54 of Article 11 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1968 Replacement Volume), title "Banks and Trust Companies," subtitles "Savings Institutions," and "Trust Companies," be and they are hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:*

39.

(a) An association for carrying on the business of savings banking may be formed by any number of persons, not less than fifteen, citizens of the United States, and citizens of this State, who shall enter into articles of association which shall specify the object for which the association is formed and shall state: The name by which the savings institution is to be known, the village, town or city and county where such institution is to be located, the names and residences of the members thereof, the date on which it is proposed to commence operations, the number of directors proposed to manage the associations' affairs, which shall not be less than five nor more than thirty, who must be members of the association, and the names and residences of the directors who shall serve the first year. The articles of association shall be executed in triplicate by the persons joining therein before any officer authorized to take acknowledgments, and then filed with the Commissioner for examination. The Commissioner shall thereupon ascertain from the best sources of information at his command, and by such investigation as he may deem necessary, whether the said articles are framed in accordance with existing laws, whether the character, responsibility and general fitness of the person or persons, named in such certificate, are such as to command confidence and warrant belief that the business of the proposed corporation will be honestly and efficiently conducted in accordance with the intent and purpose of this article, and whether the public convenience and advantage will be promoted by allowing such proposed corporation to engage in business. After the Commissioner shall have satisfied himself by such investigation whether it is expedient, and desirable to permit such proposed corporation to engage or continue in business, he shall have power to require such changes in said certificate as he may deem necessary. He shall within six (6) months after the date of the filing of such certificate for examination, endorse upon each of the triplicates thereof, over his official signature, the word "approved" or the word "refused" with the date of such endorsement. In case of refusal he shall return one of the triplicates so endorsed to the proposed incorporators. In case of approval, the triplicates shall be returned to the proposed incorporators. One copy shall then be filed for record in the office of the clerk of the circuit court in the county in which the institution is to be located, or in the office of the clerk of the Superior Court of Baltimore City, when to be located in said city, and one copy shall be filed with the Commissioner, who shall issue his certificate therefor, and one copy shall be filed with the State Tax Commission. The corporation so formed shall have no legal existence until all copies of the articles of association shall have been filed for record as herein directed. The fee for filing such articles of incorporation with the Commissioner shall be [twenty (\$20.00) dollars] *five hundred dollars (\$500.00)*, and for filing amendments to the articles of incorporation, [ten (\$10.00) dollars] *twenty dollars (\$20.00) and new branch applications fifty dollars (\$50.00)*, all such fees to be collected by