

Approved May 24, 1973.

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## CHAPTER 705

(Senate Bill 725)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Sections 3-8(b), 3-9A(a), and 7-1(b) of Article 33 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Replacement Volume and 1972 Supplement), title "Election Code," subtitles "Registration of Voters - General Provisions," and "Nomination by Petition," to change the time limit prior to [an election] certain elections for a change of party affiliation or registration and [matters related thereto] relating generally to registration reports and information.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Sections 3-8(b), 3-9A(a), and 7-1(b) of Article 33 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Replacement Volume and 1972 Supplement), title "Election Code," subtitles "Registration of Voters - General Provisions," and "Nomination by Petition," be and they are hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

3-8.

(b) Voters already registered as declines who wish to affiliate with a party, or voters who wish to change their party affiliation, or voters who wish to change from affiliation with a party to registration as a decline, may do so at any time prior to [six] **FOUR** months before any [[regular]] **PRIMARY** election or, in the case of a special primary and special election pursuant to § 22-1 (b) of this article, at any time prior to the date on which the Governor issues a proclamation directing that such elections be held.

3-9A.

(a) Within fifteen days after the commencement of the [six-month] **FOUR MONTH** period before a primary election in which voters already registered shall not be allowed to affiliate with a party or change party affiliation for purposes of this article, pursuant to § 3-8(b) of this article, **AND AT OTHER TIMES AS DIRECTED BY THE STATE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF ELECTION LAWS**, the board for each county of the State and for the City of Baltimore shall submit to the State Administrative Board of Election Laws a report of registration setting forth the following information, as shown on the books of the respective board as of the date of the commencement of the said [six-month] **FOUR MONTH** period:

(1) The name of each political party with which one or more registered voters in their respective county or in the City of Baltimore are then affiliated; and

(2) The total number of registered voters affiliated with each such political party.

7-1.

(b) A candidate for public office seeking nomination by petition shall file a certificate of candidacy under the provisions of the subtitle "Certificate of Candidacy" of this article with a sworn statement attached that he has on file with the election board or the several boards of the State petitions signed by not less