

PURCHASE, RENT, LEASE OR OTHERWISE ACQUIRE SUCH NUMBER OF VOTING MACHINES AS MAY BE REQUIRED TO EQUIP ANY AND ALL OF THE POLLING PLACES IN THE CITY OR COUNTY, AS THE CASE MAY BE. IN THE EVENT OF THE LEASING, RENTAL OR OTHER ACQUISITION OF SUCH MACHINES, THEY SHALL BE EXEMPT FROM STATE, COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL TAXATION]] [The] boards shall provide for the use of voting machines in all elections in accordance with the provisions of this Article and under such rules and regulations as the boards may deem advisable or necessary. The boards may purchase, rent, lease or otherwise acquire such number of voting machines as may be required to equip any and all of the polling places in the city or county, as the case may be. In the event of the leasing, rental or other acquisition of such machines, they shall be exempt from state, county or municipal taxation.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That new Section 16A-1 be and it is hereby added to Article 33 - Election Code, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Replacement Volume and 1974 Supplement) to read as follows:

Article 33 - Election Code

16A-1.

(A) IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY OR A PORTION THEREOF, BALLOTS MAY BE IN THE FORM OF ONE OR MORE PUNCHCARDS WHICH MAY BE ELECTRONICALLY TABULATED.

(B) [[NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION ELSEWHERE IN THIS ARTICLE,]] BEFORE THE [[ANY]] LOCAL BOARD IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY MAY USE ELECTRONICALLY TABULATED PUNCHCARD BALLOTS, THE PARTICULAR VOTING 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 COUNTY]] BY THE STATE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF ELECTION [[LAW]] LAWS. BEFORE APPROVING A PUNCHCARD BALLOT SYSTEM FOR USE [[IN A COUNTY]], THE STATE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF ELECTION LAWS SHALL BE SATISFIED THAT THE SYSTEM IS ACCURATE, EFFICIENT, FREE FROM THE LIKELIHOOD OF MECHANICAL BREAKDOWNS, UNDERSTANDABLE BY VOTERS, THAT IT IS SUBJECT TO RECOUNT BY SOME OTHER SYSTEM, AND THAT [[IS]] IT OTHERWISE COMPLIES WITH THE LAWS OF MARYLAND.

(C) THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ELECTIONS [[MAY]] SHALL MAKE WRITTEN APPLICATION TO THE STATE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF ELECTION LAWS [[FOR PERMISSION TO USE THE ELECTRONICALLY TABULATED PUNCHCARD BALLOT VOTING SYSTEM. THE APPLICATION SHALL BE MADE