

(25%) ] 25 PERCENT of the persons who reside in the area to be annexed and who are registered as voters in county elections, and by the owners of not less than [twenty-five per centum (25%)] 25 PERCENT of the assessed valuation of the real property located in the area to be included. Upon the presentation of such a petition to the County Commissioners, the chairman [thereof] shall cause to be made a verification of the signatures and shall ascertain that the persons signing the petition represent at least [twenty-five per centum (25%)] 25 PERCENT of the persons who reside in the area to be included and who are registered as voters in county elections, and the owners of [twenty-five per centum (25%)] 25 PERCENT of the assessed valuation of the real property located in the area to be included. Upon verifying that the requirements of this subsection have been complied with, the chairman of the County [Commissioners] COUNCIL shall promptly cause to be introduced an ordinance proposing the change of boundaries as requested by the petition. The ordinance shall describe by a description of clearly ascertained boundary lines, by landmarks and other well-known terms consistent with the description of other areas included within the Regional District, the exact area proposed to be included in the change and briefly and accurately describing the conditions and circumstances applicable thereto.

(c) Notice and hearing for ordinance of annexation. The ordinance may be adopted by a majority of the County [Commissioners] COUNCIL at a hearing, after public notice of [such] THE hearing has been given and published not fewer than four [(4)] times at not less than weekly intervals in a newspaper of general circulation in the area proposed to be annexed. The public notice shall briefly and accurately describe the proposed change and the conditions and circumstances applicable thereto. The public notice shall specify a time and place at which a public hearing will be held by the County [Commissioners] COUNCIL on the proposed ordinance. The hearing shall be set for not less than seven [(7)] days after the fourth publication of the notices and shall be held in the Court House at Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

(d) Enactment of ordinance. Following the public hearing the County [Commissioners] COUNCIL may proceed to enact the ordinance in accordance with the usual requirements and practices applicable to its legislative enactments. The ordinance [shall] MAY not become effective until at least [forty-five (45)] 45 days following its final enactment.

(e) Petition for referendum. At any time within