

[[canvassing]] disclosing or reporting of absentee ballots by precinct; correcting certain language; and providing that this Act is an emergency measure.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 33 - Election Code
Section 27-9(b)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1971 Replacement Volume and 1975 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section 27-9(b) of Article 33 - Election Code, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Replacement Volume and 1975 Supplement) be and it is hereby repealed and reenacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

Article 33 - Election Code

27-9.

(b) At any time after the closing of the polls and not later than the canvass of the votes cast at the regular voting places in this State at any election, the several boards shall meet at the usual place for holding the circuit court for the county or at the usual offices of the board and shall proceed to count, certify and canvass the absentee ballots contained in the ballot envelopes, received by them prior to the closing of the polls on election day. [No] A ballot [shall] MAY NOT be rejected by the board except by the unanimous vote of the entire board. This canvass shall be conducted by ELECTION district or ward [and precinct] and precinct OR BY CONGRESSIONAL, COUNCILMANIC, OR LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS in accordance with the applicable provisions of § 14-1 of this article. ABSENTEE BALLOTS MAY NOT BE [[CANVASSED]] SEPARATELY DISCLOSED OR REPORTED BY PRECINCT. All voters' applications, medical certificates, notarial affidavits, certifications, ballot envelopes and ballots shall be kept separate and apart from ballots cast at the regular voting places and retained for six [(6)] months after the date of election at which they were cast, unless prior to that time, the board [shall be] IS ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction, to keep the same for any longer period. The several boards [are hereby granted authority to] MAY appoint such numbers of temporary judges as [said] THE boards may deem necessary to adequately and promptly carry out the provisions of this section.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health and safety and having been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, the same shall take effect from the date of its passage.