

~~AND--THAT--THE--AFFIANT--PERSONALLY--SAW--THE--SIGNERS--SIGN--THE--PAPER--~~

23-3.

[(a) The Secretary of State shall prescribe the form for petitions filed under the provisions of Article XVI of the State Constitution. The signatures shall be on separate papers, being no more than 8-1/2 inches in width and 14 inches in length, and bearing one or more signatures. Each paper shall contain a full text, or an accurate summary approved by the Attorney General, of the act or part of act petitioned upon. The papers shall not contain the names of persons residing in more than one county or in any county and the City of Baltimore. To every petition (including an associated or related set of petitions) there shall be appended to the signature of each signer his residence, and immediately below the signature of any such signer, there shall be either printed or typed the name of such signer. There shall be attached to every paper an affidavit, signed under penalty of perjury, to the effect that the signatures are, to the affiant's best knowledge and belief, genuine and bona fide, and that the signers are registered voters of the county or city as set forth in the petition, and that the affiant personally saw the signers sign the paper.]

(A) THE STATE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF ELECTION LAWS SHALL PRESCRIBE THE FORM FOR PETITIONS FILED UNDER ARTICLE XI-A OR ARTICLE XVI OF THE CONSTITUTION OF MARYLAND.

(b) Petitions filed under the provisions of Article XVI of the [State] Constitution OF MARYLAND shall be filed with the Secretary of State [who shall adopt procedures for their verification either by the Secretary of State or his designee or by the local board of supervisors of elections] WHO SHALL FORWARD EACH PETITION TO THE STATE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF ELECTION LAWS. THE STATE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF ELECTION LAWS SHALL ADOPT PROCEDURES FOR THEIR VERIFICATION.

23-4.

It is unlawful for a person, as principal or agent, in circulating or in having charge or control of the circulation of or in obtaining signatures for any petition (including an associated or related set of petitions) under the provisions of [Article 16] ARTICLES XI-A AND XVI of the Constitution, to misrepresent or to make any false statements concerning the contents, purport, or effect of the petition, to any person who signs, wishes to sign, is requested to sign, makes inquiry concerning the petition, or to whom the petition is presented for signature.

23-5.