

1-1.

(a) As used in this article the following terms shall have the meanings indicated unless a contrary meaning is clearly intended from the context in which the term appears:

(16) "Precinct" means an election district in a county which is not divided into precincts or an election precinct in an election district which is divided into precincts or a precinct in a ward of the City of Baltimore, as the case may be.

(16A) "Punchcard" means a standard computer tabulating card on which the voter may record his vote by punching a hole opposite his choices.

(16B) "COMPUTER READ DOCUMENT" MEANS A DOCUMENT USED AS A BALLOT WHICH CAN BE TABULATED BY ELECTRONIC COMPUTING EQUIPMENT.

27-7.

(a) In sufficient time prior to any election, the boards shall have printed an adequate number of absentee ballots, the three kinds of envelopes described in this section, and the instructions to absentee voters as set out in § 27-8 of this article.

(1) Absentee ballots in the discretion of the board may be in the form either of paper ballots or of one or more punchcards OR OTHER COMPUTER READ DOCUMENTS kept together in a covering folder, provided that all absentee ballots in any one county or Baltimore City shall be in the same form. The form and arrangement of all absentee ballots shall be as prescribed by the State Administrative Board of Election Laws.

(2) Notwithstanding any provision in this subsection, before any board may use punchcard ballots OR BALLOTS THAT ARE OTHER COMPUTER READ DOCUMENTS, the particular [punchcard] ballot system, including the form of ballot arrangement, the nature of the [punchcard] BALLOT used, the method of marking ballots, and any sorting or counting devices must be approved for use in the State by the State Administrative Board of Election Laws. Before approving a punchcard OR OTHER COMPUTER READ DOCUMENT ballot system for use in the State, the State Administrative Board of Election Laws shall be satisfied that the system is accurate, efficient and free from the likelihood of mechanical breakdowns and understandable by voters, that it is subject to recount by some other system, and that it complies with the laws of Maryland.

(b) [The] ALL ballots shall contain the words "Absentee Ballot" or "Official Ballot" printed in large letters in a clear