

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article - Education**

3-201.

(e) (1) Each elected member serves for a term of 4 years beginning on January 2 after the member's election and until a successor is elected and qualifies. If January 2 is a legal holiday, the term begins on the first day after January 2 that is not a legal holiday.

(2) The terms of elected members are staggered as required by the terms of the members serving on the County Board on July 1, 1978.

(3) Except as provided in paragraph (4) of this subsection, the Governor shall appoint a new member to fill any vacancy of an elected member's position on the Board for the remainder of that term and until a successor is elected and qualifies.

(4) If a vacancy occurs [before the end of the second year of a term, the vacancy may not be filled by appointment under paragraph (3) of this subsection but instead shall be filled by a special election in accordance with subsection (f) of this section] BEFORE THE DATE THAT IS 10 DAYS PRIOR TO THE FILING DEADLINE FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION THAT IS HELD IN THE SECOND YEAR OF THE TERM, THE INDIVIDUAL APPOINTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL SERVE ONLY UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS ELECTED BY THE VOTERS AT THE TIME OF THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION.

[(f) (1) In accordance with this subsection, the Allegany County Board of Supervisors of Elections shall conduct a special election to fill a vacancy of an elected member's position that occurs before the end of the second year of a term.

(2)] (5) Candidates for the vacated office may be nominated at a primary election [or by procedures adopted by the Allegany County Board of Supervisors of Elections] IN THE SAME MANNER AS FOR ANY OTHER POSITION ON THE COUNTY BOARD.

[(3) Except as provided in paragraph (4) of this subsection, the special election shall be held not more than 6 months after the vacancy occurs.

(4) If a vacancy occurs not more than 9 months before a regular general election, the special election to fill the vacancy may take place at the same time and place as the regular general election.

(5) In accordance with paragraph (6) of this subsection, the candidate receiving the greatest number of votes in the special election shall take office as soon as possible after the election, and shall continue to serve for the remainder of the term and until a successor is elected and qualifies.]