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

Approved January 19, 1996.

_____

CHAPTER 2

(House Bill 128)

AN ACT concerning

Election Law – Application for Absentee Ballot

FOR the purpose of repealing the requirement that an application for an absentee ballot contain a certain affidavit and be under penalty of perjury; and making this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to the repeal of provisions relating to an affidavit accompanying an application for an absentee ballot.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
  Article 33 – Election Code
  Section 27–4 and 27–6(a) and (b)
  Annotated Code of Maryland
  (1993 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

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

Article 33 – Election Code

27–4.

Except as provided in § 27–2 of this article, a qualified voter desiring to vote at any election as an absentee voter shall make application in writing to the board for an absentee ballot, which application must be received not later than the Tuesday preceding the election. The application shall contain [an affidavit, which need not be under oath but which shall set forth] such information [, under penalty of perjury,] as may be required by the State Administrative Board of Election Laws. Upon receipt of the application the board shall issue, to the voter or a duly authorized agent, an absentee ballot.

27–6.

(a) Upon receipt of an application [containing the affidavit], the board shall reject the application only upon the unanimous vote of the entire board and when rejected shall notify the applicant of the reason therefor if it determines upon inquiry that the applicant is not legally qualified to vote at the election as an absentee voter.