

(1997 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

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

**Article 33 - Election Code**

3-8.

(a) (1) Except as provided in § 2-9(e) of this article and paragraph (2) of this subsection, no person may register:

(i) Between 9 p.m. on the 5th Monday preceding a primary or special primary election and the 11th day after that election; or

(ii) Between 9 p.m. on the 5th Monday preceding a general or special election and the 16th day following that election.

(2) (i) A voter registration application which is received by mail by any local board or by the State Administrative Board of Election Laws shall be considered as received timely for registration for the next election provided:

1. It is received prior to the deadline for registration established in paragraph (1) of this subsection; or

2. A. It was either mailed on or before the 5th Monday preceding a primary, special primary, or general election or, if that Monday is a legal public holiday as set out in 5 U.S.C. § 6103(a), on or before the 4th Tuesday preceding a primary, special primary, or general election; AND

B. The United States Postal Service, or the postal service of any other country, has provided verification of that fact by affixing a mark so indicating on the covering envelope; and

C. The application is received by 4 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday preceding the election involved].

(ii) An application received [after the applicable deadline] WITH AN UNTIMELY POSTMARK shall be accepted, but the registration of the applicant may not become effective until the registration records are next open pursuant to this subsection.

(iii) For the purposes of subparagraph (i)2 of this paragraph as it applies to applications received from outside the United States, as defined in § 27-9(d)(4) of this article, the applicant's affidavit that the application was completed and mailed before the applicable deadline shall suffice to establish that the application was timely mailed if:

1. The postal service of the country from which the application was mailed does not provide a postmark; or

2. The application is received from a private mail service.