

Administrator, his tenure, salary, and office staff and to change the composition of the Board of State Canvassers and the manner of performing its duties, and generally relating to the State Administrative Board of Election Laws.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That new Section 1A-1 be and it is hereby added to Article 33 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1967 Replacement Volume and 1968 Supplement), title "Election Code," to follow immediately after Section 1-1 thereof, and to be under the new subtitle "State Administrative Board of Election Laws," and to read as follows:

1A-1. State Administrative Board of Election Laws

(a) *There is hereby created a State Administrative Board of Election Laws consisting of five members. The members of the Board shall be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate of Maryland and shall be residents and voters of the State of Maryland for five years preceding their appointment, and during the time of acting as a member of this Board shall not be a candidate for any public or party office. The members first appointed to this Board shall serve a term of two years from July 1, 1969, to July 1, 1971. All subsequent appointments to a full term shall be for a period of four years. In case of a vacancy on the Board by reason of death, resignation or otherwise, occurring when the Senate is not in session, the Governor shall appoint some eligible person to fill the vacancy until the end of the next session of the General Assembly or until some other person is appointed to the office, whichever first occurs; provided that the appointee must be a member of the same political party as the individual whom he replaces. Of the five members appointed to the Board three shall be of the same political party as the Governor and two shall be of the political party receiving the second greatest number of votes in the most recent gubernatorial election. The members of the Board shall receive no salary but shall be entitled to reimbursement of necessary expenses in connection with their duties. The members of the Board shall elect one of their number as the Chairman of the Board.*

(b) *There shall be a State Administrator of Election Laws who shall be appointed by the ~~State Administrative Board of Election Laws~~ GOVERNOR WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES OF MARYLAND. He shall GOVERNOR. HE SHALL hold office during good behavior for a term of six years and shall be removable during his term only for incompetence upon charges furnished in writing by the Board setting forth the grounds for dismissal, and he shall have ample opportunity for a hearing. A person may be appointed to successive or additional terms. His salary shall be as provided in the annual State budget from time to time. A vacancy shall be filled by the Board for the unexpired term. IN CASE OF A VACANCY BY REASON OF DEATH, RESIGNATION OR OTHERWISE, OCCURRING WHEN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS NOT IN SESSION, THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT SOME ELIGIBLE PERSON TO FILL THE VACANCY UNTIL THE END OF THE NEXT SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. A VACANCY SHALL BE FILLED BY THE GOVERNOR FOR THE UNEXPIRED TERM.*

(c) *The State Administrator shall receive and may audit any financial reports of candidates required under the provisions of this*