

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows:

Article 33 - Election Code

4B-1.

(a) Any group of voters wishing to form a new political party shall do so by filing with the State Administrative Board of Election Laws a petition for formation of a political party which shall declare their intention of organizing a State political party, the name of which shall be stated in the petition together with the name and address of the State chairman thereof and the names and addresses of at least twenty-five persons who shall be designated as constituting the governing body of the party. Appended to the petition IN THE MANNER HEREINAFTER PROVIDED shall be papers bearing the signatures of at least ten thousand qualified voters of the State[, in the manner hereafter provided]. IF, AFTER VERIFICATION AS REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION, THE TOTAL REQUIRED NUMBER OF SIGNATURES OF QUALIFIED VOTERS IS NOT PROPERLY APPENDED TO THE PETITION, ADDITIONAL SIGNATURES MAY BE FILED. HOWEVER, ALL OF THE SIGNATURES, INCLUDING ANY ADDED AFTER THE INITIAL FILING, MUST HAVE BEEN AFFIXED TO THE APPENDED PAPERS NOT MORE THAN TWO YEARS PRIOR TO THE FILING DATE OF THE LAST QUALIFYING SIGNATURE, AND NO VOTER'S SIGNATURE MAY BE COUNTED MORE THAN ONCE.

(b) [The signatures shall not be appended to one paper but] THE STATE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF ELECTION LAWS SHALL PRESCRIBE THE FORM OF PETITIONS FILED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE. THE SIGNATURES shall be on separate papers, bearing one or more signatures, and being no more than 8 1/2 inches in width and 14 inches in length. Each paper shall contain the names of persons residing only in one county or only in the City of Baltimore. Each signer shall append to his signature his residence, THE DATE OF SIGNING and the name of the county or city where he is registered as a voter, and immediately below the signature of any signer there shall be either printed or typed the name of the signer. Every paper shall be accompanied by an affidavit or affidavits which state that the signers, TO THE BEST KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF OF THE AFFIANT OR AFFIANTS, are registered voters of the county or city as set forth in the petition and that the affiant or affiants witnessed the application of each signature to the paper ON THE DATE NOTED OPPOSITE HIS SIGNATURE. The affidavits shall be [made before a notary public or other officer authorized to take oaths under the laws of this State by one or more persons known personally to the notary public or other official, and it shall be so certified.] SIGNED UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY.

(e) If the total required number of signatures is not properly appended to the petition for formation of a political party[,] WITHIN THE TIME PERIOD ALLOWED BY SUBSECTION (A), it shall be declared insufficient by the