

whatsoever, who shall wilfully destroy, conceal or retain any ballots duly prepared for voting, or wilfully break the seals of any package, book or block of ballots, or abstract any ballots therefrom, or have any such ballots, except for the lawful purposes in this article provided, in his possession, or any paper purporting to be an official ballot, before or during an election, shall be punished by a fine of not less than five nor more than one thousand dollars, or shall be imprisoned in jail, penitentiary or house of correction for not less than thirty days nor more than two years, or both such fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the court.

P. L. L., 1888, Art. 22, sec. 162. 1886, ch. 409. 1892, ch. 55, sec. 162.

317. When the poll shall be closed the box wherein the ballots are deposited, shall immediately thereafter be opened by the judges of election and the said judges in the presence of one selected representative of each and every political party, whose candidates are voted for at such election to be designated in writing by said candidates, shall publicly take out the said ballots and read distinctly and aloud the name or names written or printed thereon respectively, and the clerks of said election shall carefully enter and keep an account of the same on the books of the polls, so that the number of votes for each candidate tallied thereon may be readily cast up and known; when all the ballots have been canvassed the poll clerks shall compare their tallies together, and ascertain the total number of voters\* received by each candidate, and when they agree upon the numbers one of them shall announce in a loud voice to the judges and those present the number of votes received by each candidate, as soon as the ballots shall be read off and counted, and the number for each candidate reckoned up and ascertained, the judge or judges of election shall make out under his or their hands, attested by the clerks of election or one of them on the books of the polls, two plain fair and distinct statements and certificates of the number of votes which shall have been then and there given for each candidate, distinguishing the station or office for which he has been voted; the said numbers shall be expressed in words at length and not in figures only according to the following form, or to the like effect, to-wit; State of Maryland, city of Hagerstown, to wit: We the undersigned duly appointed by the board of supervisors of election of the city of Hagerstown in due form of law, judge or judges of election in this ward, number — do hereby certify and return that we did attend on the — day of — at —, the place appointed by law for holding the elections within said ward, we further certify that we did then and there before a justice of the peace of the State of Maryland, in and for Washington County, qualify as judge or judges of the election as by law directed, and did then and there at the hour of — o'clock in the morning open the polls for an election for —; that we continued the polls open until six o'clock in the evening of the same day, when they were closed, the ballot box opened, and the ballots publicly counted, when it appeared that — votes as — given under our hands at the place of said

\*"Votes" evidently intended.

PROPERTY  
OF THE  
STATE OF MARYLAND