

*“Absentee Ballots” may be marked by any kind of pencil or ink. All Absentee Ballots shall be kept separate and apart from ballots cast at the regular voting places and retained for six (6) months after the date of election at which they were cast, unless prior to that time, the Board shall be ordered by a Court of competent jurisdiction, to keep the same for any longer period.*

*143. Every Absentee Resident, who complies with the provisions of any Act of Congress providing for voting by them, may vote at any election herein provided for and every ballot marked and executed by any such person in accordance with the provisions of any such Act of Congress and received by any Board prior to the closing of the polls on election day for which the same may be voted, shall, to all intents and purposes, be as valid and effective as State Absentee Ballots received and cast under the provisions of this sub-title, and all such Federal War Ballots shall be received, counted, certified and canvassed in the same manner and at the same time as said State Absentee Ballots are counted, certified and canvassed; provided, however, that if any such Board receives from the same person prior to the closing of the polls on election day one or more State Absentee Ballots and one or more Federal Absentee Ballots, it shall count, certify and canvass only that State Absentee Ballot contained in the Ballot Envelope on which the Voter's oath was first executed, and if the oath on two or more of the Ballot Envelopes containing State Absentee Ballots are dated the same or if both are undated, none of the Ballots received from such person shall be counted; and if only Federal Ballots have been voted by such person, the same rule shall prevail.*

*144. Contests concerning registration, voting or the validity of any ballot under this sub-title shall be decided by the Board having jurisdiction of the matter. No registration shall be denied and no ballot rejected except by the unanimous vote of said Board. Any candidate or Absentee Resident aggrieved by any decision or action of such Board shall have the right of appeal to the Circuit Court for the County or to the Superior Court of Baltimore City, as the case may be, to review such decision or action, and jurisdiction to hear and determine such appeals is hereby conferred upon said Courts. Such appeals shall be taken by way of petition filed with the appropriate Court within ten days from the date of the completion of the official canvass by any Board of all the votes cast at any election and shall be heard de novo and without a jury by said Court as soon as possible. There shall be a further right of appeal to the Court of Appeals, provided such appeal shall be taken within five days from the date of the decision of the lower Court complained of, and all such appeals shall be heard and decided on the*