

liberally construed to effectuate its purposes; making certain acts criminal offenses and prescribing penalties therefor; suspending all laws inconsistent with this Act to the extent of such inconsistency; and providing for the severability of the various provisions of this Act.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That twenty-five (25) new sections be and they are hereby added to Article 33 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1947 Supplement), title "Elections", said new sections to be known as Sections 129-153, inclusive, to follow immediately after Section 128 of said Article, to be under the new sub-title "Voting by Mail", and to read as follows:*

#### VOTING BY MAIL

129. *It is hereby declared to be the purpose of the General Assembly of Maryland, in enacting this sub-title, to provide that absentee residents of this State, as herein defined, at the time of any election, as herein defined, shall be given the right and every possible opportunity to register and vote by mail in any such election to the full extent permitted by the Constitution of this State; and, further, to protect such absentee residents in the exercise of those rights, and to correlate in so far as the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this State permit, the provisions of this sub-title with all Acts of Congress relating to voting by mail by such absentee residents; and to permit and facilitate the general cooperation of this State and its election officials and commissions with every department, commission or agency of the United States to which the carrying out of the provisions of such Act of Congress may be delegated and committed.*

130. *For the purposes of this sub-title and unless otherwise required by the context:*

(1) *An "Absentee Resident" means a resident of Maryland, (a) qualified to vote under its Constitution as to age, citizenship and length of residence and not disfranchised because of crime, and (b) who is absent and engaged in the military or naval service of the United States as herein defined, and (c) who, because of such absence, is unable to vote in person at any election, as herein defined, in the ward or election district in this State in which he was a resident at the time of his entry or induction into the armed forces of the United States, or into any of the organizations, work or services hereinafter set forth; provided that, at the time his ballot is received, as in this sub-title provided, he is either already registered as a voter according to the Election Laws of this State, exclusive of this sub-title, or becomes so registered by mail under this sub-title.*