

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1949.

Approved May 6, 1949.

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CHAPTER 711

(House Bill 260)

AN ACT to authorize the parishes and separate congregations of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Maryland to establish by-laws governing election of their vestrymen as an alternate method to the provisions of Chapter 24 of the Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland, session of November, 1798, known as the Vestry Act of 1798.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That the parishes and separate congregations of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Maryland may by by-laws provide for the manner of conducting elections of vestrymen, the number of vestrymen to be elected, and the length of the terms of the offices of vestrymen. Such by-laws may be adopted at any annual meeting or special meeting of members of the parish or congregation by a vote of two-thirds of the qualified voters present at such meeting.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That any by-laws adopted as authorized by this Act shall be subject to amendment, modification, or repeal at any annual meeting or special meeting of the parish or congregation in the same manner as herein provided for adoption of such by-laws.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the provisions of this Act shall not become effective unless and until any congregation or parish shall have first by resolution adopted and declared its intention of electing to avail itself of the provisions of this Act and that this Act is expressly declared to provide for an alternate authority for the election of vestries and not intended to repeal any portions of the Vestry Act of 1798, enacted as Chapter 24 of the General Assembly of Maryland, session of November, 1798.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1949.

Approved May 6, 1949.