

the [forty-five] 45 day period following the final enactment of the ordinance, a number of persons equal to not less than [twenty per centum (20%)] 20 PERCENT of the persons who reside in the area and who are owners of not less than [twenty per centum (20%)] 20 PERCENT of the assessed valuation of the real property located in the area to be included or annexed, and who are registered as voters in county elections, may in writing petition the chairman of the County Commissioners of Prince George's County for a referendum on the ordinance. Upon the presentation of a petition, [to] the [said] chairman[, he] shall cause to be made a verification of the signatures thereon and shall ascertain that the persons signing the petition represent at least [twenty per centum (20%)] 20 PERCENT of the assessed valuation of the real property located in the area to be annexed, and are registered voters in county elections. Upon verifying that the requirements of this subsection have been complied with, the chairman of the County Commissioners shall suspend the effectiveness of the ordinance contingent upon the results of the referendum.

(f) Notice and hearing for referendum. The chairman of the County Commissioners of Prince George's County shall set a date for the referendum on the ordinance which shall be not less than [fifteen (15)] 15 days and not more than [ninety (90)] 90 days from the publication of notices therefor. [Such] THESE notices shall be published twice at not less than weekly intervals in a newspaper or newspapers of general circulation in the area to be annexed. The notices shall specify the time and place or places at which the referendum will be held. The place or places shall be within the limits of the area to be annexed for the referendum within that area.

(g) Referendum. On the date and at the places specified, the ordinance proposing a change in the boundaries of the Regional District shall be submitted to a referendum election of the qualified voters who reside in the area to be annexed and who are registered as voters in county elections. The ballots or the voting machines, as the case may be, shall contain a summary of the ordinance with suitable provisions for the voter to indicate a choice for or against it.

(h) Definitions for section. For the purposes of this section, in any instance in which there are fewer than [twenty] 20 persons living in any area proposed to be annexed who are eligible to sign a petition and to participate in a referendum election under the provisions of this section, any person owning real property in the area proposed to be annexed (the word "person" here including an association, the two or more joint owners of