

and that Act further provided for the number and apportionment of the delegates to be elected to the convention from each of the counties and from Baltimore City; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of Maryland now has under consideration two proposed convention enabling acts which, among other things, will prescribe the qualifications of and the manner of electing the delegates to the constitutional convention; and

WHEREAS, a question has arisen as to whether a delegate to the constitutional convention would be the holder of an office within the meaning of Articles 33 and 35 of the Declaration of Rights and Section 6 of Article I and Sections 11 and 17 of Article III of the Constitution of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, if a delegate to the constitutional convention would be the holder of such an office, a further question arises as to the validity and effect of Chapter 500 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1966 by reason of the fact that it was enacted as an emergency measure; and

WHEREAS, it is essential for the well-being and welfare of the citizens of the State of Maryland that these questions be finally and expeditiously settled and determined so that the General Assembly may proceed promptly with the consideration of the convention enabling acts now before it and prescribe the qualifications of delegates to the constitutional convention without the threat of litigation to determine the constitutionality of such convention enabling acts; and

WHEREAS, by the Constitution of the State of Maryland, the Circuit Courts of the State and the Court of Appeals have such jurisdiction as may be prescribed by law; and

WHEREAS, it is deemed desirable by the General Assembly of Maryland that the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County render a declaratory judgment on the several questions set forth in this Act and that the Court of Appeals of Maryland review such judgment on appeal or upon petition of the Attorney General; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly is vitally interested in the speedy determination of these questions, but the question has arisen whether the Attorney General of Maryland is authorized to institute a declaratory judgment proceeding on behalf of the General Assembly under Article 31A of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition); and

WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors of Elections of Anne Arundel County will have certain duties and functions to perform in connection with the election of delegates to the constitutional convention; now, therefore,

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, as follows:

SECTION 1. The Attorney General of Maryland is hereby authorized and directed to institute in the Circuit Court of Anne Arundel County a declaratory judgment proceeding under Article 31A of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition) on behalf of the General Assembly and the Secretary of State of Maryland against The Board of Supervisors of Elections of Anne Arundel County and such other