

AN ACT TO MAKE VOTING COMPULSORY.

SECTION I. Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of the State of Maryland that it shall be compulsory upon every qualified voter, of the State of Maryland, to cast a ballot at each and every general election, hereafter held in Baltimore or any of the several Counties of this State, according to law.

SECTION II. And, be it enacted, that it shall be the duty of the Judges of Election, at each and every general election hereafter held in this State, according to law, at the closing of the polls of said election to examine the book containing the names of the said qualified voters, of their respective polling places, and to make a red mark under the name of each voter who has neglected to cast his ballot at said election; and to have copied a true and correct list of names and addresses of all voters who fail to cast their ballots, as aforesaid; such copy to be signed by each Judge and attested by the clerks, at each polling place, and to be transmitted by the returning Judge, within the next succeeding ten days of said election, to the clerk of the Criminal Court of Baltimore City, or Clerk of the Circuit Court of the County in which said election was held.

SECTION III. And, be it enacted, that it shall be the duty of the Clerks of said Courts, to immediately issue summons under the seal of the Court, to be served by the sheriff upon said delinquent voter, commanding him to appear in person before the court at its next sitting thereafter, to show cause why the fine, hereinafter prescribed, shall not be imposed upon him for neglecting to cast his ballot at said election.

SECTION IV. And, be it enacted, that it shall be the duty of the presiding Judge of said Court to hear the cause or excuse of said voter for his failure to cast his ballot at said election, and if he be unable to give such an excuse under oath as prescribed by Section 5 of this Act, then said Judge shall give judgment against said voter for the fine of \$5.00 (five dollars) and costs, to be collected as other fines and forfeitures are collected in this State.

SECTION V. And, be it enacted, that every voter who violates Section 1 (one) of this Act shall be subject to the fine herein imposed, unless he can show to the satisfaction of the Judge before whom his case is heard, that he was unable, by reason of sickness, or absence from the City or County, wherein he is a qualified voter, at the time of the holding of said election, to cast his ballot at said election.

SECTION VI. And be it enacted, that if any qualified voter be adjudged guilty of violating Section 1 of this Act, his property to the amount of one hundred dollars shall be exempt from liability for said fine, and judgment.

SECTION VII. And, that it be enacted, that all fines collected under or by virtue of this Act, shall go to the Public School Fund of Baltimore City or of the County wherein said fine is imposed and collected.

SECTION VIII. And, be it further enacted, that this act shall take effect from the date of its passage.

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