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By: **Senator Green**

Introduced and read first time: February 25, 2002

Assigned to: Rules

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Elections - Form of Petitions**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a chief election official to seek legal advice before  
4 determining the sufficiency of a petition; providing for the termination of certain  
5 provisions of this Act; and providing for the effective date of certain provisions of  
6 this Act.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Article 33 - Election Code  
9 Section 6-202  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (1997 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Article - Election Law  
14 Section 6-202  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (As enacted by Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ (S.B. 1) of the Acts of the General Assembly of  
17 2002)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
19 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article 33 - Election Code**

21 6-202.

22 (a) The format of the petition prepared by a sponsor may be submitted to the  
23 chief election official of the appropriate election authority, in advance of filing the  
24 petition, for a determination of its sufficiency.

25 (b) In making the determination, the chief election official [may] SHALL seek  
26 the advice of the legal authority.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland  
2 read as follows:

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**Article - Election Law**

4 6-202.

5 (a) The format of the petition prepared by a sponsor may be submitted to the  
6 chief election official of the appropriate election authority, in advance of filing the  
7 petition, for a determination of its sufficiency.

8 (b) In making the determination, the chief election official [may] SHALL seek  
9 the advice of the legal authority.

10 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 1 of this Act shall  
11 take effect July 1, 2002. It shall remain effective until the taking effect of Section 2 of  
12 this Act. If Section 2 of this Act takes effect, Section 1 of this Act shall be abrogated  
13 and of no further force and effect.

14 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to the provisions  
15 of Section 3 of this Act, this Act shall take effect January 1, 2003.