

BY: House Judiciary Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 276

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 2, strike “Nonpartisan General” and substitute “Primary”; strike in their entirety lines 3 through 11, inclusive, and substitute:

“FOR the purpose of providing for an additional primary for nomination of candidates for circuit court judge by registered voters who are unaffiliated with any political party; providing for the number of candidates that may be nominated in a certain primary; providing that certain vacancies in candidacy or nomination may not be filled; and generally relating to elections for circuit court judges.”;

and strike in their entirety lines 12 through 16, inclusive, and substitute:

“BY adding to

Article - Election Law

Section 5-301(h), 5-705(b)(5), 5-906, and 5-1006

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2003 Volume and 2004 Supplement)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, strike in its entirety line 19 and substitute “Section 5-701”; and strike in their entirety lines 22 through 27, inclusive.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On pages 2 through 6, strike beginning with line 2 on page 2 through line 6 on page 6, inclusive, and substitute:

“5-301.

(Over)

(H) AN INDIVIDUAL MAY BECOME A CANDIDATE FOR CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BY FILING A CERTIFICATE OF CANDIDACY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE FOR:

(1) A PARTY PRIMARY FOR CANDIDATES OF A PRINCIPAL POLITICAL PARTY; OR

(2) A PRIMARY UNDER § 5-701(B) OF THIS TITLE FOR REGISTERED VOTERS WHO ARE NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY.

5-701.

(A) Nominations for public offices that are filled by elections governed by this article shall be made:

(1) by party primary, for candidates of a principal political party; or

(2) by petition for:

(i) candidates of a political party that does not nominate by primary; or

(ii) candidates not affiliated with any political party.

(B) IN ADDITION TO EACH NOMINATION FOR CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, A NOMINATION FOR CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE MAY BE MADE IN A PRIMARY FOR REGISTERED VOTERS WHO ARE UNAFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY.

5-705.

(b) (5) VOTERS IN A PRIMARY UNDER § 5-701(B) OF THIS SUBTITLE MAY NOMINATE ONE CANDIDATE FOR EACH CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE POSITION TO BE FILLED IN A GENERAL ELECTION.

5-906.

A VACANCY IN CANDIDACY FOR THE NOMINATION FOR CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE IN A PRIMARY UNDER § 5-701(B) OF THIS TITLE THAT OCCURS BEFORE THE PRIMARY ELECTION FOR CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE MAY NOT BE FILLED.

5-1006.

A VACANCY IN NOMINATION FOR CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE UNDER § 5-701(B) OF THIS TITLE THAT OCCURS AFTER THE PRIMARY ELECTION FOR CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE MAY NOT BE FILLED.”.