

HOUSE BILL 141

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By: **Delegate O'Donnell**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2015

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – 2016 Presidential Primary Election – Early Voting**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the days for early voting for the 2016 presidential primary
4 election; and generally relating to early voting.

5 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
6 Article – Election Law
7 Section 10–301.1
8 Annotated Code of Maryland
9 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

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

12 **Article – Election Law**

13 10–301.1.

14 (a) Except as provided under Title 9, Subtitle 3 of this article, during any
15 regularly scheduled primary or general election a voter may vote:

16 (1) in the voter's assigned precinct on election day; or

17 (2) at an early voting center in the voter's county of residence on any early
18 voting day in accordance with this section.

19 (b) (1) Each county shall have at least one early voting center established in
20 the county as prescribed in this subsection.

21 (2) A county with fewer than 125,000 registered voters shall have one early
22 voting center established in the county.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (3) A county with more than 125,000 registered voters but fewer than
2 300,000 registered voters shall have three early voting centers established in the county.

3 (4) A county with more than 300,000 registered voters but fewer than
4 450,000 registered voters shall have five early voting centers established in the county.

5 (5) A county with more than 450,000 registered voters shall have eight
6 early voting centers.

7 (6) In addition to the early voting centers required in this subsection, each
8 county may establish one additional early voting center if the State Board, in collaboration
9 with the local board, and the governing body of the county agree to establish an additional
10 early voting center.

11 (c) No later than 6 months before a primary election, the State Board, in
12 collaboration with the local board in each county, shall designate each early voting center
13 in that county.

14 (d) Each early voting center shall be open for voting as follows:

15 (1) beginning the second Thursday before a primary or general election
16 through the Thursday before the election; and

17 (2) during the following hours:

18 (i) in a presidential general election, during the hours between 8
19 a.m. and 8 p.m. each early voting day; and

20 (ii) in all other elections, during the hours between 10 a.m. and 8
21 p.m. each early voting day.

22 (e) Each early voting center shall satisfy the requirements of § 10–101 of this
23 title.

24 (f) Beginning 30 days prior to each early voting period the State Board and each
25 local board shall undertake steps to inform the public about early voting and the location
26 of early voting centers in each county, including:

27 (1) a series of public service media announcements;

28 (2) mailings to all registered voters in each county; and

29 (3) other measures as appropriate.

30 (g) Except as expressly provided in this section, any provision of this article that
31 applies to voting on election day also applies to early voting.

1 (h) The State Board shall adopt regulations and guidelines in accordance with the
2 requirements of this section for the conduct of early voting.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, notwithstanding §
4 10-301.1(d) of the Election Law Article, for the 2016 presidential primary election each
5 early voting center established in the State shall be open for voting as follows:

6 (1) (i) Beginning on the second Thursday before the election through
7 the second Saturday before the election; and

8 (ii) Beginning on the second Monday before the election through the
9 Thursday before the election; and

10 (2) During the hours between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.

11 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
12 October 1, 2015.