

HOUSE BILL 217

G1

3lr0677

By: **Delegates Rosenberg, Braveboy, and Cardin**

Introduced and read first time: January 21, 2013

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Early Voting Access Act of 2013**

3 FOR the purpose of increasing the number of early voting centers that are required to
4 be established in each county for a regularly scheduled general election;
5 authorizing the State Board of Elections, in collaboration with the local boards
6 of elections, to increase the number of early voting centers in each county for a
7 regularly scheduled primary election; requiring that early voting centers be
8 open for certain days and hours before regularly scheduled primary and general
9 elections; and generally relating to early voting.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Election Law
12 Section 10–301.1
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Election Law**

18 10–301.1.

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

21 (1) in the voter’s assigned precinct on election day; or

22 (2) at an early voting center in the voter’s county of residence on any
23 early voting day in accordance with this section.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (b) (1) **(I) THIS PARAGRAPH APPLIES TO ANY REGULARLY**
2 **SCHEDULED GENERAL ELECTION.**

3 **(II) Each county shall have [at least one] early voting [center]**
4 **CENTERS established in the county as prescribed in this [subsection] PARAGRAPH.**

5 **[(2)] (III) A county with fewer than 150,000 registered voters shall**
6 **have [one] TWO early voting [center] CENTERS established in the county.**

7 **[(3)] (IV) A county with more than 150,000 but fewer than 300,000**
8 **registered voters shall have [three] SIX early voting centers established in the county.**

9 **[(4)] (V) A county with more than 300,000 registered voters shall**
10 **have [five] TEN early voting centers established in the county.**

11 **(2) (I) THIS PARAGRAPH APPLIES TO ANY REGULARLY**
12 **SCHEDULED PRIMARY ELECTION.**

13 **(II) THE STATE BOARD, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE**
14 **LOCAL BOARD IN EACH COUNTY, SHALL DETERMINE THE NUMBER OF EARLY**
15 **VOTING CENTERS IN THAT COUNTY, SUBJECT TO THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS**
16 **PRESCRIBED IN THIS PARAGRAPH.**

17 **(III) A COUNTY WITH FEWER THAN 150,000 REGISTERED**
18 **VOTERS SHALL HAVE AT LEAST ONE EARLY VOTING CENTER ESTABLISHED IN**
19 **THE COUNTY.**

20 **(IV) A COUNTY WITH MORE THAN 150,000 BUT FEWER THAN**
21 **300,000 REGISTERED VOTERS SHALL HAVE AT LEAST THREE EARLY VOTING**
22 **CENTERS ESTABLISHED IN THE COUNTY.**

23 **(V) A COUNTY WITH MORE THAN 300,000 REGISTERED**
24 **VOTERS SHALL HAVE AT LEAST FIVE EARLY VOTING CENTERS ESTABLISHED IN**
25 **THE COUNTY.**

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

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

30 (1) [for the 2010 gubernatorial primary and general elections:

1 (i) beginning the second Friday before a primary or general
2 election through the Thursday before the elections, but excluding Sunday; and

3 (ii) during the hours between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.; and

4 (2) for the 2012 presidential primary and general elections:

5 (i) beginning the second Saturday before a primary or general
6 election through the [Thursday] **SUNDAY** before the elections; and

7 [(ii) 1.] **(2) (I)** during the hours between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. on
8 [the Saturday and the Monday through the Thursday] **EACH DAY** during the early
9 voting period **EXCEPT SUNDAYS**; and

10 [2.] **(II)** during the hours between 12 noon and 6 p.m.
11 on [the] **EACH** Sunday during the early voting period.

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

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

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

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

19 (3) other measures as appropriate.

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

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

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
25 July 1, 2013.