

HOUSE BILL 758

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CF 3lr0856

By: **Delegate Frush**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2013

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Polling Places – Waiting Times to Vote**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring that each polling place on election day be supplied with
4 a number of voting machines and staffed with a number of election judges that
5 the State Board of Elections, in collaboration with the local boards of elections,
6 determines is sufficient to ensure that each voter will be able to cast a ballot
7 after waiting no more than a certain length of time; requiring each county to
8 have a number of voting centers that the State Board, in collaboration with the
9 local boards, determines is sufficient to ensure that each voter will be able to
10 cast a ballot after waiting no more than a certain length of time; and generally
11 relating to waiting times to vote.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
13 Article – Election Law
14 Section 10–101(a)(1) and 10–301.1(a) and (c)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
18 Article – Election Law
19 Section 10–101(a)(2)
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

22 BY repealing
23 Article – Election Law
24 Section 10–301.1(b)
25 Annotated Code of Maryland
26 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

27 BY adding to

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Article – Election Law
2 Section 10–301.1(b)
3 Annotated Code of Maryland
4 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

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

7 **Article – Election Law**

8 10–101.

9 (a) (1) Each local board shall designate a polling place that meets the
10 requirements of this subsection for each precinct in the county as established by the
11 local board in accordance with Title 2 of this article.

12 (2) Each polling place shall:

13 (i) provide an environment that is suitable to the proper
14 conduct of an election;

15 (ii) be located as conveniently as practicable for the majority of
16 registered voters assigned to that polling place;

17 (iii) except as authorized in paragraph (4) of this subsection, be
18 in a public building;

19 (iv) be in the precinct that it serves unless no suitable location
20 for a polling place can be found within that precinct, in which case the board may
21 establish the polling place in an adjacent precinct; [and]

22 (v) whenever practicable, be selected and arranged to avoid
23 architectural and other barriers that impede access or voting by elderly and physically
24 disabled voters; AND

25 **(VI) BE SUPPLIED WITH A NUMBER OF VOTING MACHINES**
26 **AND STAFFED WITH A NUMBER OF ELECTION JUDGES THAT THE STATE BOARD,**
27 **IN COLLABORATION WITH THE LOCAL BOARD IN EACH COUNTY, DETERMINES IS**
28 **SUFFICIENT TO ENSURE THAT EACH VOTER WILL BE ABLE TO CAST A BALLOT**
29 **AFTER WAITING NO MORE THAN 15 MINUTES.**

30 10–301.1.

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

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

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

4 **[(b) (1) Each county shall have at least one early voting center established**
5 **in the county as prescribed in this subsection.**

6 (2) A county with fewer than 150,000 registered voters shall have one
7 early voting center established in the county.

8 (3) A county with more than 150,000 but fewer than 300,000
9 registered voters shall have three early voting centers established in the county.

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

12 **(B) EACH COUNTY SHALL HAVE A NUMBER OF EARLY VOTING CENTERS**
13 **ESTABLISHED IN THE COUNTY THAT THE STATE BOARD, IN COLLABORATION**
14 **WITH THE LOCAL BOARD IN EACH COUNTY, DETERMINES IS SUFFICIENT TO**
15 **ENSURE THAT EACH VOTER WILL BE ABLE TO CAST A BALLOT AFTER WAITING**
16 **NO MORE THAN 15 MINUTES.**

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

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
21 June 1, 2013.