

SENATE BILL 497

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CF HB 481

By: **Senators Pugh, Conway, Glassman, Jones–Rodwell, King, Montgomery, and Muse**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2013

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Early Voting Centers – Legislative Districts**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring each county to establish a certain number of early voting
4 centers in each General Assembly legislative district in the county; and
5 generally relating to early voting centers.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article – Election Law
8 Section 10–301.1
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

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

13 **Article – Election Law**

14 10–301.1.

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

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

18 (2) at an early voting center in the voter’s county of residence on any
19 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)] Each county shall have [at least] one early voting center
2 established in EACH GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT LOCATED IN
3 WHOLE OR IN PART IN the county [as prescribed in this subsection].

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 (i) beginning the second Saturday before a primary or general
20 election through the Thursday before the elections; and

21 (ii) 1. during the hours between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. on the
22 Saturday and the Monday through the Thursday during the early voting period; and

23 2. during the hours between 12 noon and 6 p.m. on the
24 Sunday during the early voting period.

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

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

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

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

1 (3) other measures as appropriate.

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

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

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
7 October 1, 2013.