

SENATE BILL 200

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CF 4r0305

By: **Senators Ferguson, Gladden, and McFadden**

Introduced and read first time: January 16, 2014

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Elections – Early Voting Centers – Days of Operation**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the days on which each early voting center is required to
4 be open before a primary or general election; and generally relating to the days
5 of operation of 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 2013 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.

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 (3) A county with more than 125,000 registered voters but fewer than
4 300,000 registered voters shall have three early voting centers established in the
5 county.

6 (4) A county with more than 300,000 registered voters but fewer than
7 450,000 registered voters shall have five early voting centers established in the
8 county.

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

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

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

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

19 (1) beginning the second [Thursday] **SUNDAY** before a primary or
20 general election through the [Thursday] **SUNDAY** before the election; and

21 (2) during the following hours:

22 (i) in a presidential general election, during the hours between
23 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. each early voting day; and

24 (ii) in all other elections, during the hours between 10 a.m. and
25 8 p.m. each early voting day.

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

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

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

32 (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 July 1, 2014.