

# HOUSE BILL 218

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By: **Delegates Morhaim, Ebersole, Hayes, Healey, Krimm, and Pena-Melnyk**  
Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2015  
Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Days of Early Voting**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the days on which early voting centers are required to be open  
4 before an election; and generally relating to early voting.

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with 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.

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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] **SUNDAY** 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 this Act shall take effect June  
4 1, 2015.