

HOUSE BILL 204

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EMERGENCY BILL

6lr0753

By: **Montgomery County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: January 21, 2016

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Montgomery County – Elections – Early Voting Centers**

3 **MC 14–16**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring Montgomery County to have a certain number of early voting
5 centers; making this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to early
6 voting centers in Montgomery County.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

8 Article – Election Law

9 Section 10–301.1

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Election Law**

15 10–301.1.

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

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

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

21 (b) (1) Each county shall have at least one early voting center established in
22 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 early
2 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 county.

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

7 (5) **[A] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (7) OF THIS**
8 **SUBSECTION,** A county with more than 450,000 registered voters shall have eight early
9 voting centers.

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

14 **(7) MONTGOMERY COUNTY SHALL HAVE 10 EARLY VOTING CENTERS.**

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 center
17 in that county.

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

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

21 (2) during the following hours:

22 (i) in a presidential general election, during the hours between 8
23 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 8
25 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 each
29 local board shall undertake steps to inform the public about early voting and the location
30 of early voting centers in each county, including:

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

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

2 (3) other measures as appropriate.

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

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

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency
8 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has
9 been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to
10 each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is
11 enacted.