

HOUSE BILL 1008

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By: **Delegates Turner, Atterbeary, B. Barnes, Branch, Brooks, Busch, Clippinger, Ebersole, Fennell, Frush, Gutierrez, Haynes, Hettleman, Hill, Hixson, Holmes, C. Howard, Jackson, Jalisi, Jones, Kaiser, Krimm, Lam, Lisanti, Luedtke, A. Miller, Moon, Morhaim, Platt, Reznik, B. Robinson, Sample-Hughes, Sanchez, Smith, Stein, Tarlau, Valderrama, Vallario, Waldstreicher, and M. Washington**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2016

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Early Voting Centers**

3 FOR the purpose of increasing the number of early voting centers that certain counties are
4 required to establish; providing that certain counties may establish one additional
5 early voting center under certain circumstances; providing for a delayed effective
6 date; and generally relating to early voting centers.

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

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

7 (3) A county with more than 125,000 registered voters but fewer than
8 300,000 registered voters shall have [three] **FOUR** early voting centers established in the
9 county.

10 (4) A county with more than 300,000 registered voters but fewer than
11 450,000 registered voters shall have [five] **SEVEN** early voting centers established in the
12 county.

13 (5) A county with more than 450,000 registered voters shall have [eight]
14 **ELEVEN** early voting centers.

15 (6) In addition to the early voting centers required in this subsection, each
16 county **WITH FEWER THAN 125,000 REGISTERED VOTERS** may establish one additional
17 early voting center if the State Board, in collaboration with the local board, and the
18 governing body of the county agree to establish an additional early voting center.

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

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

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

25 (2) during the following hours:

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

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

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

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

- 4 (1) a series of public service media announcements;
- 5 (2) mailings to all registered voters in each county; and
- 6 (3) other measures as appropriate.

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

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

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
12 January 1, 2017.