

## Chapter 539

## (House Bill 237)

AN ACT concerning

**Election Law – Early Voting Centers – ~~Hours of Operation~~ Establishment**

FOR the purpose of authorizing all counties, rather than counties with fewer than a certain number of registered voters, to establish one early voting center in addition to the number of early voting centers the county is required to establish if the State Board of Elections, in collaboration with the local board of elections, and the governing body of the county agree to establish an additional early voting center; altering the time at which early voting centers are required to open during gubernatorial general elections; and generally relating to early voting centers.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
 Article – Election Law  
 Section ~~10-301.1(d)~~ 10-301.1(b)  
 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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

**Article – Election Law**

10-301.1.

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

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

(3) A county with more than 125,000 registered voters but fewer than 200,000 registered voters shall have three early voting centers established in the county.

(4) A county with more than 200,000 registered voters but fewer than 300,000 registered voters shall have four early voting centers established in the county.

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

(6) A county with more than 450,000 registered voters shall have eleven early voting centers.

(7) In addition to the early voting centers required in this subsection, each county [with fewer than 200,000 registered voters] may establish one additional early voting center if the State Board, in collaboration with the local board, and the governing body of the county agree to establish an additional early voting center.

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

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

~~(2) during the following hours:~~

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

~~(ii) in [all other elections] A PRIMARY ELECTION, during the hours between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. each early voting day.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2019.

**Approved by the Governor, May 13, 2019.**