

SENATE BILL 154

G1

9lr0754

By: **Senator Simonaire**

Introduced and read first time: January 21, 2019

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Election Day – Opening Time for Polling Places**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the time a polling place is required to open on election day;
4 altering the time by which an election judge is required to arrive at and set up a
5 polling place on election day; and generally relating to the opening time for polling
6 places on election day.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Election Law
9 Section 10–301 and 10–309
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2018 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.

16 (a) On an election day, a polling place shall be open from [7] 6 a.m. until 8 p.m.

17 (b) A voter who has appeared at a polling place by the closing hour to cast a ballot
18 shall be allowed to vote.

19 10–309.

20 (a) In accordance with instructions provided by the election director, an election
21 judge shall arrive at the polling place and, under the direction of the chief judge, set up the
22 polling place to assure that the polls will be open and operational at [7] 6 a.m.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (b) Except as provided in § 10–303(d)(2)(ii) of this subtitle, an election judge shall
2 admit an accredited challenger or watcher one-half hour before the polling place is open.

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