

SENATE BILL 310

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~~EMERGENCY BILL~~

0lr2201
CF HB 442

By: **Senators Hayes, Carter, McCray, Sydnor, and Washington**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2020

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 8, 2020

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Baltimore City – ~~Elections~~ 2020 General Election – Early Voting Centers**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring Baltimore City, for a certain election, to have a certain
4 number of early voting centers; requiring, for a certain election, that one of the early
5 voting centers in Baltimore City ~~to~~ be located at a certain location to the extent
6 practicable or, under certain circumstances, within a certain radius of a certain
7 location; providing for the application of this Act; making stylistic and conforming
8 changes; making this Act an emergency measure; providing for the termination of
9 this Act; and generally relating to early voting centers in Baltimore City.

10 ~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~
11 ~~Article – Election Law~~
12 ~~Section 10-301.1~~
13 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
14 ~~(2017 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)~~

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

17 ~~Article – Election Law~~

18 ~~10-301.1.~~

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (1) ~~in the voter's assigned precinct on election day; or~~

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

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

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

8 (3) ~~A county with more than 125,000 registered voters but fewer than~~
9 ~~200,000 registered voters shall have three early voting centers established in the county.~~

10 (4) ~~A county with more than 200,000 registered voters but fewer than~~
11 ~~300,000 registered voters shall have four early voting centers established in the county.~~

12 (5) ~~[A] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (7) OF THIS~~
13 ~~SUBSECTION, A county with more than 300,000 registered voters but fewer than 450,000~~
14 ~~registered voters shall have seven early voting centers established in the county.~~

15 (6) ~~A county with more than 450,000 registered voters shall have [eleven]~~
16 ~~11 early voting centers.~~

17 (7) ~~BALTIMORE CITY SHALL HAVE EIGHT EARLY VOTING CENTERS.~~

18 ~~(7)(8)~~ (8) ~~In addition to the early voting centers required in this subsection,~~
19 ~~each county may establish one additional early voting center if the State Board, in~~
20 ~~collaboration with the local board, and the governing body of the county agree to establish~~
21 ~~an additional early voting center.~~

22 (e) (1) ~~[No] SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, NOT later~~
23 ~~than 6 months before a primary election, the State Board, in collaboration with the local~~
24 ~~board in each county, shall designate each early voting center in that county.~~

25 (2) ~~IN BALTIMORE CITY, ONE OF THE EARLY VOTING CENTERS SHALL~~
26 ~~BE LOCATED AT FREDERICK DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL.~~

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

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

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

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

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

5 (c) ~~Each early voting center shall satisfy the requirements of § 10-101 of this~~
6 ~~title.~~

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

10 (1) ~~a series of public service media announcements;~~

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

12 (3) ~~other measures as appropriate.~~

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

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

17 ~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, notwithstanding the deadline~~
18 ~~established in § 10-301.1(c) of the Election Law Article, this Act shall be applied and~~
19 ~~interpreted to require that for the 2020 general election:~~

20 (1) Baltimore City shall have eight early voting centers beginning with the
21 2020 election cycle; and

22 (2) the eighth early voting center shall be located:

23 (i) to the extent practicable, at Frederick Douglass High School; or

24 (ii) if Frederick Douglass High School is unavailable for use as an
25 early voting center, within a one-quarter mile radius of Mondawmin Metro Station.

26 ~~SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency~~
27 ~~measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has~~
28 ~~been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three fifths of all the members elected to~~
29 ~~each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is~~
30 ~~enacted.~~

31 ~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June~~
32 1, 2020. It shall remain effective for a period of 8 months and, at the end of January 31,

1 2021, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated
2 and of no further force and effect.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.