

SENATE BILL 310

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EMERGENCY BILL

0lr2201
CF 0lr3396

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

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2020

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Baltimore City – Elections – Early Voting Centers**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring Baltimore City to have a certain number of early voting
4 centers; requiring one of the early voting centers in Baltimore City to be at a certain
5 location; providing for the application of this Act; making stylistic and conforming
6 changes; making this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to early
7 voting centers in Baltimore City.

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

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

15 **Article – Election Law**

16 10–301.1.

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

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

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

22 (b) (1) Each county shall have at least one early voting center established in
23 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
4 200,000 registered voters shall have three early voting centers established in the county.

5 (4) A county with more than 200,000 registered voters but fewer than
6 300,000 registered voters shall have four 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 300,000 registered voters but fewer than 450,000
9 registered voters shall have seven early voting centers established in the county.

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

12 **(7) BALTIMORE CITY SHALL HAVE EIGHT EARLY VOTING CENTERS.**

13 **[(7)] (8)** In addition to the early voting centers required in this subsection,
14 each county may establish one additional early voting center if the State Board, in
15 collaboration with the local board, and the governing body of the county agree to establish
16 an additional early voting center.

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

20 **(2) IN BALTIMORE CITY, ONE OF THE EARLY VOTING CENTERS SHALL**
21 **BE LOCATED AT FREDERICK DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL.**

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, notwithstanding the deadline
12 established in § 10–301.1(c) of the Election Law Article, this Act shall be applied and
13 interpreted to require that Baltimore City have eight early voting centers beginning with
14 the 2020 election cycle.

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