By: **Delegates Ross, Rosenberg, and Patterson** Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2006 Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1	AN	ACT	concerning
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Election Law - Voting Opportunity Enhancements

3 FOR the purpose of requiring that local boards of elections, when establishing early

4 voting polling places, select sites that are consistent with certain guidelines and

5 regulations established by the State Board of Elections; requiring the State

6 Administrator of Elections and the Office of the Attorney General jointly to

7 review issues relating to same day voter registration and voting and to submit a

8 report of findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General

9 Assembly by a certain date; and generally relating to voting opportunity

10 enhancements.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

12 Article - Election Law

13 Section 10-301.1(c)(1)

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2003 Volume and 2005 Supplement)

16 (As enacted by Chapter 5 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2006)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF

18 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

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Article - Election Law

20 10-301.1.

21(c)(1)(I)Each local board shall establish the early voting polling places22in its county.

23 (II) WHEN ESTABLISHING THE EARLY VOTING POLLING PLACES,
24 THE LOCAL BOARD SHALL, CONSISTENT WITH THE GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS
25 ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE BOARD:

SELECT A SITE IN THE COUNTY THAT IS
 GEOGRAPHICALLY CENTRAL AND EASILY ACCESSIBLE, IF ONLY ONE LOCATION IS
 BEING USED IN THE COUNTY; OR

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2. SELECT SITES FROM RECOMMENDATIONS PROVIDED BY
 THE CHAIRMEN OF THE LOCAL CENTRAL COMMITTEES OF THE RECOGNIZED
 POLITICAL PARTIES, IF MULTIPLE LOCATIONS ARE USED IN THE COUNTY.
 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the State Administrator
 of Elections and the Office of the Attorney General jointly shall:
 (1) review the efficacy of, and any legal impediments to, implementing a

6 (1) review the efficacy of, and any legal impediments to, implementing a
7 system of election day voter registration that would allow eligible unregistered voters,
8 commencing with the 2010 primary election, to register and then vote on election day;

9 (2) (i) consult with local election officials in Maryland to ascertain the 10 impact and assess any administrative challenges associated with implementing a 11 statewide system of election day voter registration in this State; and

(ii) query election officials in any other states around the country
that have implemented statewide election day voter registration about their
experiences with such a system;

15 (3) note any legal impediments to implementing a statewide system of 16 election day voter registration and identify any changes to State statutory or 17 constitutional law that would be required to implement such a system;

18 (4) estimate the additional cost to the State and to the counties to19 implement a system of election day voter registration; and

20 (5) on or before December 1, 2007, submit a report of their findings and

21 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State

22 Government Article, to the General Assembly.

23 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect 24 October 1, 2006.

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