

HOUSE BILL 889

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EMERGENCY BILL

0lr2669

By: **Montgomery County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2010

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Montgomery County – Election Law – Days of Early Voting**

3 **MC 23–10**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the required days for early voting before the 2010
5 gubernatorial primary and general elections in Montgomery County; making
6 this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to the days of early
7 voting in Montgomery County.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Election Law
10 Section 10–301.1
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2003 Volume and 2009 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
14 MARYLAND, 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
21 early voting day in accordance with this section.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 (2) A county with fewer than 150,000 registered voters shall have one
4 early voting center established in the county.

5 (3) A county with more than 150,000 but fewer than 300,000
6 registered voters shall have three early voting centers established in the county.

7 (4) A county with more than 300,000 registered voters shall have five
8 early voting centers established in the county.

9 (c) No later than 6 months before a primary election, the State Board, in
10 collaboration with the local board in each county, shall designate each early voting
11 center in that county.

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

13 (1) **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS**
14 **SUBSECTION,** for the 2010 gubernatorial primary and general elections:

15 (i) beginning the second Friday before a primary or general
16 election through the Thursday before the elections, but excluding Sunday; and

17 (ii) during the hours between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.; [and]

18 **(2) IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, FOR THE 2010 GUBERNATORIAL**
19 **PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTIONS:**

20 **(I) BEGINNING THE SECOND SATURDAY BEFORE A**
21 **PRIMARY OR GENERAL ELECTION THROUGH THE THURSDAY BEFORE THE**
22 **ELECTIONS; AND**

23 **(II) DURING THE HOURS BETWEEN 10 A.M. AND 8 P.M.; AND**

24 **[(2)] (3)** for the 2012 presidential primary and general elections:

25 (i) beginning the second Saturday before a primary or general
26 election through the Thursday before the elections; and

27 (ii) 1. during the hours between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. on the
28 Saturday and the Monday through the Thursday during the early voting period; and

29 2. during the hours between 12 noon and 6 p.m. on the
30 Sunday during the early voting period.

1 (e) Each early voting center shall satisfy the requirements of § 10–101 of this
2 title.

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

6 (1) a series of public service media announcements;

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

8 (3) other measures as appropriate.

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

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

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency
14 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety,
15 has been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three–fifths of all the members
16 elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from
17 the date it is enacted.