

SENATE BILL 69

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2lr0546

By: **Senators Brochin, Jennings, and Stone**

Introduced and read first time: January 16, 2012

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Elections – Early Voting – Dates**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the days on which early voting shall be conducted before a
4 primary and general election; repealing certain obsolete provisions relating to
5 early voting; and generally relating to the days for early voting before each
6 primary and general election.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Election Law
9 Section 10–301.1
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Election Law**

15 10–301.1.

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

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

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

21 (b) (1) Each county shall have at least one early voting center established
22 in 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 150,000 registered voters shall have one
2 early voting center established in the county.

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

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

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

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

11 (1) for the 2010 gubernatorial primary and general elections:

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

14 (ii) during the hours between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.; and

15 (2) for the 2012 presidential primary and general elections:

16 (i)] **FOR EACH PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTION** beginning
17 **ON** the [second Saturday] **THURSDAY** before a primary or general election through
18 the [Thursday] **SUNDAY** before the[; and] **ELECTIONS AS FOLLOWS:**

19 [(ii) 1.] **(1)** during the hours between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. on
20 the **THURSDAY, FRIDAY, AND** Saturday [and the Monday through the Thursday]
21 during the early voting period; and

22 [2.] **(2)** during the hours between 12 noon and 6 p.m.
23 on the Sunday during the early voting period.

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

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

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

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

1 (3) other measures as appropriate.

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

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

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
7 October 1, 2012.