

HOUSE BILL 1207

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3lr2151

By: **Delegates Gutierrez, Arora, Carter, Cullison, Hixson, Hucker, Ivey, Kaiser, A. Kelly, Kramer, Lee, A. Miller, Mizeur, Reznik, S. Robinson, and Waldstreicher**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2013

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Early Voting Centers**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the number of registered voters used to determine the
4 number of voting centers that must be established in a county; altering the
5 number of early voting centers a county with more than a certain number of
6 registered voters is required to establish; and generally relating to the
7 establishment of early voting centers.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Election Law
10 Section 10–301.1
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2012 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] **125,000** registered voters
4 shall have one early voting center established in the county.

5 (3) A county with more than [150,000] **125,000** but fewer than
6 300,000 registered voters shall have three early voting centers established in the
7 county.

8 (4) A county with more than 300,000 **BUT FEWER THAN 450,000**
9 registered voters shall have five early voting centers established in the county.

10 **(5) A COUNTY WITH 450,000 OR MORE REGISTERED VOTERS**
11 **SHALL HAVE A MINIMUM OF EIGHT EARLY VOTING CENTERS PLUS A NUMBER OF**
12 **ADDITIONAL EARLY VOTING CENTERS ESTABLISHED IN THE COUNTY**
13 **DETERMINED BY:**

14 **(I) DIVIDING THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE**
15 **COUNTY BY 100,000; AND**

16 **(II) ROUNDING THE QUOTIENT TO THE NEXT HIGHER**
17 **WHOLE NUMBER.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 (3) other measures as appropriate.

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

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

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
16 July 1, 2013.