

SB0190/903222/1

BY: Delegate Turner

AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 190
(Third Reading File Bill – Committee Reprint)

On page 21, under:

Heading: STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Program: D38I01.01

Entitled: General Administration

In line 30, after “Appropriation” insert “, provided that it is the intent of the General Assembly that:

- (1) no Maryland voter should have to wait for more than 30 minutes to vote; and
- (2) the State Board of Elections (SBE) and local boards of elections take every possible action to ensure that voters casting ballots at early voting centers and polling places on Election Day are able to begin the voting process within 30 minutes of arrival at the early voting center or polling place.

Further provided that \$50,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration may not be expended for that purpose and instead may only be used to conduct a study that includes:

- (1) collection of data on wait times in the 2016 general election at an appropriate selection of early voting centers and Election Day polling places that experienced wait times in excess of 30 minutes in the 2012 presidential general election;

(Over)

- (2) analysis of the data collected to determine the causes of any wait times in excess of 30 minutes that occur in the 2016 general election; and
- (3) recommendations for reducing wait times in excess of 30 minutes in future elections.

Further provided that \$25,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration may not be expended until SBE submits the study on wait times and a report that describes:

- (1) the actions taken by SBE and the local boards of elections to keep voter wait times under 30 minutes in the 2016 presidential general election; and
- (2) the plans of SBE and the local boards of elections to keep voter wait times under 30 minutes in future elections.

The study and report shall be submitted by December 31, 2016, to the House Appropriations Committee, House Ways and Means Committee, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, and Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee. The committees shall have 45 days to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a study and a report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the study and report are not submitted.”.