

# HOUSE BILL 79

G1

9lr1204  
CF SB 461

---

By: **Delegate Luedtke**

Introduced and read first time: January 17, 2019

Assigned to: Ways and Means

---

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 8, 2019

---

## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Early Voting Centers – Establishment ~~and Hours~~**

3 FOR the purpose of ~~increasing the number of early voting centers that certain counties are~~  
4 ~~required to establish; altering the hours that early voting centers are required to be~~  
5 ~~open during gubernatorial general elections; requiring that the location of early~~  
6 ~~voting centers be designated in a certain manner in certain counties; authorizing all~~  
7 counties, rather than only counties with fewer than a certain number of registered  
8 voters to establish one early voting center in addition to the number of early voting  
9 centers the county is required to establish if the State Board of Elections, in  
10 collaboration with the local board of elections, and the governing body of the county  
11 agree to establish an additional early voting center; and generally relating to early  
12 voting centers.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
14 Article – Election Law  
15 Section 10–301.1  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Election Law**

21 10–301.1.

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



## HOUSE BILL 79

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

3 (1) in the voter's assigned precinct on election day; or

4 (2) at an early voting center in the voter's county of residence on any early  
5 voting day in accordance with this section.

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

8 (2) A county with fewer than ~~125,000~~ ~~100,000~~ registered voters shall  
9 have one early voting center established in the county.

10 (3) A county with ~~more than 125,000~~ ~~AT LEAST 100,000~~ registered  
11 voters but fewer than 200,000 registered voters shall have three early voting centers  
12 established in the county.

13 (4) A county with ~~more than~~ ~~AT LEAST~~ 200,000 registered voters but  
14 fewer than 300,000 registered voters shall have ~~four~~ ~~FIVE~~ early voting centers established  
15 in the county.

16 (5) A county with ~~more than~~ ~~AT LEAST~~ 300,000 registered voters but  
17 fewer than ~~450,000~~ ~~400,000~~ registered voters shall have seven early voting centers  
18 established in the county.

19 (6) A county with ~~more than 450,000~~ ~~AT LEAST 400,000 REGISTERED~~  
20 ~~VOTERS BUT FEWER THAN 500,000~~ registered voters shall have ~~eleven~~ ~~NINE~~ early  
21 voting centers.

22 ~~(7) A COUNTY WITH AT LEAST 500,000 REGISTERED VOTERS BUT~~  
23 ~~FEWER THAN 600,000 REGISTERED VOTERS SHALL HAVE ELEVEN EARLY VOTING~~  
24 ~~CENTERS.~~

25 ~~(8) A COUNTY WITH AT LEAST 600,000 REGISTERED VOTERS SHALL~~  
26 ~~HAVE THIRTEEN EARLY VOTING CENTERS.~~

27 ~~(7)~~ ~~(9)~~ In addition to the early voting centers required in this subsection,  
28 each county ~~with fewer than 200,000 registered voters~~ may establish one additional early  
29 voting center if the State Board, in collaboration with the local board, and the governing  
30 body of the county agree to establish an additional early voting center.

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

1 ~~(D) TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, IN A COUNTY WITH MORE THAN ONE EARLY~~  
 2 ~~VOTING CENTER, THE STATE BOARD, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE LOCAL BOARD~~  
 3 ~~IN THAT COUNTY, SHALL DESIGNATE THE LOCATION OF EACH EARLY VOTING~~  
 4 ~~CENTER TO MAXIMIZE GEOGRAPHIC DISPERSAL AND ACCESSIBILITY FOR THE~~  
 5 ~~REGISTERED VOTERS OF THAT COUNTY.~~

6 ~~{(d)}~~ ~~(E)~~ Each early voting center shall be open for voting as follows:

7 (1) beginning the second Thursday before a primary or general election  
 8 through the Thursday before the election; and

9 (2) during the following hours:

10 (i) in a ~~{presidential}~~ general election, during the hours between 8  
 11 a.m. and 8 p.m. each early voting day; and

12 (ii) in all other elections, during the hours between 10 a.m. and 8  
 13 p.m. each early voting day.

14 ~~{(e)}~~ ~~(F)~~ Each early voting center shall satisfy the requirements of § 10–101 of  
 15 this title.

16 ~~{(f)}~~ ~~(G)~~ Beginning 30 days prior to each early voting period the State Board and  
 17 each local board shall undertake steps to inform the public about early voting and the  
 18 location of early voting centers in each county, including:

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

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

21 (3) other measures as appropriate.

22 ~~{(g)}~~ ~~(H)~~ Except as expressly provided in this section, any provision of this article  
 23 that applies to voting on election day also applies to early voting.

24 ~~{(h)}~~ ~~(I)~~ The State Board shall adopt regulations and guidelines in accordance  
 25 with the requirements of this section for the conduct of early voting.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
 27 October 1, 2019.