A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Election Law – Early Voting Centers – Accessibility by Public Transportation

FOR the purpose of requiring that, in a county that has fixed-route public transportation service, each early voting center be located within a certain distance of a public transportation station or stop; and generally relating to early voting centers.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Election Law
Section 10–301.1
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2017 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

Article – Election Law

10–301.1.

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

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

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

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

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

(3) A county with more than 125,000 registered voters but fewer than 200,000 registered voters shall have three early voting centers established in the county.

(4) A county with more than 200,000 registered voters but fewer than 300,000 registered voters shall have four early voting centers established in the county.

(5) A county with more than 300,000 registered voters but fewer than 450,000 registered voters shall have seven early voting centers established in the county.

(6) A county with more than 450,000 registered voters shall have eleven early voting centers.

(7) In addition to the early voting centers required in this subsection, each county may establish one additional early voting center if the State Board, in collaboration with the local board, and the governing body of the county agree to establish an additional early voting center.

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

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

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

(2) during the following hours:

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

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

(e) Each early voting center shall:

(1) IN A COUNTY THAT HAS FIXED–ROUTE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICE, BE LOCATED NOT MORE THAN 500 FEET FROM A PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION STATION OR STOP; AND

(2) satisfy the requirements of § 10–101 of this title.

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

(1) a series of public service media announcements;

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

(3) other measures as appropriate.

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

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

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2021.