

Chapter 106

(House Bill 263)

AN ACT concerning

Election Law – Early Voting Centers – Bus Stops

FOR the purpose of requiring buses operating on certain fixed local routes to allow passengers to embark and disembark at the entrance of early voting centers located within a certain distance of the route; and generally relating to early voting.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Election Law
Section 10–301.1(c)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Election Law
Section 10–301.1(e)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Election Law
Section 10–301.1(e), (f), and (g)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 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.

(c) 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 hours between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. each early voting day.

(E) (1) (I) THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES ONLY WITH RESPECT TO A FIXED LOCAL BUS ROUTE FUNDED BY A COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION AND

OPERATED BY THE COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OR A CONTRACTOR FOR THE COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION.

(II) THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO:

- 1. AN EXPRESS OR A COMMUTER BUS ROUTE THAT HAS LIMITED STOPS BETWEEN ITS ORIGIN AND DESTINATION;**
- 2. A BUS ROUTE OPERATED BY THE MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION; OR**
- 3. A BUS ROUTE OPERATED BY THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY.**

(2) IF AN EARLY VOTING CENTER IS LOCATED WITHIN ONE-HALF MILE OF A FIXED LOCAL BUS ROUTE, EACH BUS OPERATING ON THAT ROUTE SHALL, TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT PRACTICABLE AND CONSISTENT WITH ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS, ALLOW PASSENGERS TO EMBARK AND DISEMBARK AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE EARLY VOTING CENTER ON THE DAYS THE CENTER IS OPEN FOR VOTING UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION.

[(e)] (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.

[(f)] (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.

[(g)] (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 January 1, 2027.

Approved by the Governor, April 14, 2026.