



Maryland Association of Election Officials

Representing the Local Election Boards of the State of Maryland

February 16, 2021

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Maryland Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: SB596 Information

Senator Pinsky and Committee Members:

The Maryland Association of Election Officials (MAEO) would like to provide information regarding SB596 – Election Law – Early Voting Center Hours of Operation.

The 2020 Presidential General Election required 9 days of staff managing in-person voting from 7:00 AM until 8:00 PM each day for the voters. In order to accomplish this task, some LBEs had staff arriving at their offices before 6:00 AM and those same staff closing early voting centers and preparing for the next day which took anywhere from 2-4 hours after the polls were closed. Due to the lines, some locations did not leave until nearly midnight. As a result of these factors, additional compensation was required for the employees who had to manage early voting center, for those required to be at the LBE office during early voting hours and there was an ongoing risk of fatigue and errors being made due to lack of rest. LBEs may need to explore the need for more permanent staff so that they may be rotated out instead of the requirement to rely on the same key staff each day.

We want you to know that we fully support the need to have full access to the ballot boxes, but by having no excuse mail-in voting, 8 days of early voting including Saturday, Sunday and some holidays (if applicable), and election day, there are a multitude of opportunities available.

Thank you for your time. If you have any questions, please give me a call at 410-386-2958, or via e-mail at Katherine.berry@maryland.gov.

www.maeo.net