

SENATE BILL 96

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By: **Senators Norman, Bates, Cassilly, Eckardt, Edwards, Getty, Hershey, Hough,
Jennings, Reilly, Salling, and Waugh**

Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2015

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Early Voting Centers – Parking**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring each early voting center to have sufficient parking on-site to
4 accommodate the maximum number of voters expected to be present at the early
5 voting center at one time; and generally relating to parking at early voting centers.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

7 Article – Election Law

8 Section 10–301.1

9 Annotated Code of Maryland

10 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

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

13 **Article – Election Law**

14 10–301.1.

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

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

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

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 (3) A county with more than 125,000 registered voters but fewer than
4 300,000 registered voters shall have three early voting centers established in the county.

5 (4) A county with more than 300,000 registered voters but fewer than
6 450,000 registered voters shall have five early voting centers established in the county.

7 (5) A county with more than 450,000 registered voters shall have eight
8 early voting centers.

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

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

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

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

19 (2) during the following hours:

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

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

24 (e) Each early voting center shall:

25 **(1) satisfy the requirements of § 10–101 of this title; AND**

26 **(2) HAVE SUFFICIENT PARKING ON-SITE TO ACCOMMODATE THE**
27 **MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VOTERS EXPECTED TO BE PRESENT AT THE EARLY VOTING**
28 **CENTER AT ONE TIME.**

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

- 1 (1) a series of public service media announcements;
- 2 (2) mailings to all registered voters in each county; and
- 3 (3) other measures as appropriate.

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

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

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
9 1, 2015.