

# HOUSE BILL 237

G1

(9lr1286)

## ENROLLED BILL

— Ways and Means/Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs —

Introduced by **Delegate Washington**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this

\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock, \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker.

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

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Early Voting Centers – ~~Hours of Operation~~ Establishment**

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

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Article – Election Law  
12 Section ~~10-301.1(d)~~ 10-301.1(b)  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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#### 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.

*Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.*



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

3 **Article – Election Law**

4 10–301.1.

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

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

9 (3) A county with more than 125,000 registered voters but fewer than  
10 200,000 registered voters shall have three early voting centers established in the county.

11 (4) A county with more than 200,000 registered voters but fewer than  
12 300,000 registered voters shall have four early voting centers established in the county.

13 (5) A county with more than 300,000 registered voters but fewer than  
14 450,000 registered voters shall have seven early voting centers established in the county.

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

17 (7) In addition to the early voting centers required in this subsection, each  
18 county [with fewer than 200,000 registered voters] may establish one additional early voting  
19 center if the State Board, in collaboration with the local board, and the governing body of  
20 the county agree to establish an additional early voting center.

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

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

24 ~~(2) during the following hours:~~

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

27 ~~(ii) in [all other elections] A PRIMARY ELECTION, during the hours~~  
28 ~~between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. each early voting day.~~

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