

HOUSE BILL 204

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EMERGENCY BILL

6lr0753

By: **Montgomery County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: January 21, 2016

Assigned to: Ways and Means

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 2, 2016

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Montgomery County – Elections – Early Voting Centers**

3 **MC 14–16**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring Montgomery County to have a certain number of early voting
5 centers; providing for the application and interpretation of this Act; providing for the
6 termination of this Act; making this Act an emergency measure; and generally
7 relating to early voting centers in Montgomery County.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Election Law
10 Section 10–301.1
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Election Law**

16 10–301.1.

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

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.



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

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

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

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

8 (3) A county with more than 125,000 registered voters but fewer than
9 300,000 registered voters shall have three early voting centers established in the county.

10 (4) A county with more than 300,000 registered voters but fewer than
11 450,000 registered voters shall have five early voting centers established in the county.

12 (5) **[A] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (7) OF THIS**
13 **SUBSECTION,** A county with more than 450,000 registered voters shall have eight early
14 voting centers.

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

19 **(7) MONTGOMERY COUNTY SHALL HAVE 10 EARLY VOTING CENTERS.**

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

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

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

26 (2) during the following hours:

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

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

31 (e) Each early voting center shall satisfy the requirements of § 10–101 of this
32 title.

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

4 (1) a series of public service media announcements;

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

6 (3) other measures as appropriate.

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

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

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, notwithstanding the deadline
12 established in § 10-301.1(c) of the Election Law Article, this Act shall be applied to and
13 interpreted to require that Montgomery County have 10 early voting centers for the 2016
14 election cycle and that the tenth early voting center be located at the Potomac Community
15 Recreation Center, if available, or, if not, at another facility that serves the Potomac area
16 community.

17 SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency
18 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has
19 been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to
20 each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is
21 enacted. It shall remain effective through December 31, 2016, and, at the end of December
22 31, 2016, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
23 abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.