HOUSE BILL 452

By: **Delegates Howard, Aumann, Bates, Burns, Cane, George, Glenn, Ivey, Krebs, McComas, McDermott, Otto, Parrott, Smigiel, Summers, and Wood**
Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2012
Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1   AN ACT concerning

Election Law – Days of Early Voting

3   FOR the purpose of altering the days on which early voting centers are open before
4   regularly scheduled primary and general elections; and generally relating to the
5   days on which early voting occurs.

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 2011 Supplement)

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

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
19   early voting day in accordance with this section.

20   (b)   (1)   Each county shall have at least one early voting center established
21   in 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 150,000 registered voters shall have one
2   early voting center established in the county.

3   (3)   A county with more than 150,000 but fewer than 300,000
4   registered voters shall have three early voting centers established in the county.

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

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

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

11   (1)   for the 2010 gubernatorial primary and general elections:

12   (i)   beginning the second Friday before a primary or general
13 election through the Thursday before the elections, but excluding Sunday; and

14   (ii)   during the hours between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.; and

15   (2)   for the 2012 presidential primary and general elections:

16   (i)   beginning the second Saturday before a primary or general
17 election through the Thursday before the elections; and

18   (ii)   1.   during the hours between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. on the
19 Saturday and the Monday through the Thursday during the early voting period; and

20   2.   during the hours between 12 noon and 6 p.m. on the
21 Sunday during the early voting period]**:**

22   **(1)   ON THE SECOND FRIDAY AND SECOND SATURDAY BEFORE A**
23 **REGULARLY SCHEDULED PRIMARY OR GENERAL ELECTION; AND**

24   **(2)   DURING THE HOURS BETWEEN 10 A.M. AND 8 P.M**.

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

27   (f)   Beginning 30 days prior to each early voting period the State Board and
28 each local board shall undertake steps to inform the public about early voting and the
29 location 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
5 that applies to voting on election day also applies to early voting.

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

8   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
9 July 1, 2012.