

SENATE BILL 322

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CF 2lr2248

By: **Senators Young and Brinkley**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2012

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Frederick County – Election Law – Early Voting Centers**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring Frederick County to have at least one early voting
4 center established in the county if the county has fewer than a certain number
5 of registered voters; authorizing the county to have a certain number of
6 additional early voting centers if the county commissioners provide funding and
7 the county has fewer than a certain number of registered voters; and generally
8 relating to the establishment of early voting centers in Frederick County.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Election Law
11 Section 10–301.1
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Election Law**

17 10–301.1.

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

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

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 (2) (I) [A] **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF**
4 **THIS PARAGRAPH,** A county with fewer than 150,000 registered voters shall have one
5 early voting center established in the county.

6 (II) **IF FREDERICK COUNTY HAS FEWER THAN 150,000**
7 **REGISTERED VOTERS, THE COUNTY:**

8 1. **SHALL HAVE AT LEAST ONE EARLY VOTING**
9 **CENTER ESTABLISHED IN THE COUNTY; AND**

10 2. **MAY HAVE NOT MORE THAN TWO ADDITIONAL**
11 **EARLY VOTING CENTERS ESTABLISHED IN THE COUNTY IF THE COUNTY**
12 **COMMISSIONERS PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE ADDITIONAL EARLY VOTING**
13 **CENTERS.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 2. during the hours between 12 noon and 6 p.m. on the
2 Sunday during the early voting period.

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

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

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

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

10 (3) other measures as appropriate.

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

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

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
16 June 1, 2012.