

HOUSE BILL 139

G1

2lr1013

By: **Carroll County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2012

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

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

3 FOR the purpose of requiring Carroll County to have a certain minimum and
4 maximum number of early voting centers established in the county if the county
5 has fewer than a certain number of registered voters; and generally relating to
6 the establishment of early voting centers in Carroll County.

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

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

14 **Article – Election Law**

15 10–301.1.

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

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

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

21 (b) (1) Each county shall have at least one early voting center established
22 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) **(I) [A] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF**
2 **THIS PARAGRAPH,** A county with fewer than 150,000 registered voters shall have one
3 early voting center established in the county.

4 **(II) IF CARROLL COUNTY HAS FEWER THAN 150,000**
5 **REGISTERED VOTERS, THE COUNTY SHALL HAVE AT LEAST ONE EARLY VOTING**
6 **CENTER BUT NOT MORE THAN THREE EARLY VOTING CENTERS ESTABLISHED IN**
7 **THE COUNTY.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 1. during the hours between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. on the
24 Saturday and the Monday through the Thursday during the early voting period; and

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

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

29 (f) Beginning 30 days prior to each early voting period the State Board and
30 each local board shall undertake steps to inform the public about early voting and the
31 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 June 1, 2012.