

HOUSE BILL 745

G1

1lr2285

By: **Delegate Luedtke**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2021

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Early Voting Centers – Number Required**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the number of early voting centers certain counties are
4 required to establish; and generally relating to early voting centers.

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
6 Article – Election Law
7 Section 10–301.1
8 Annotated Code of Maryland
9 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

12 **Article – Election Law**

13 10–301.1.

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

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

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

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

21 [(2) A county with fewer than 125,000 registered voters shall have one early

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 voting center established in the county.

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

4 (4) A county with more than 200,000 registered voters but fewer than
5 300,000 registered voters shall have four early voting centers established in the county.

6 (5) A county with more than 300,000 registered voters but fewer than
7 450,000 registered voters shall have seven early voting centers established in the county.

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

10 (2) **A COUNTY WITH FEWER THAN 50,000 REGISTERED VOTERS SHALL**
11 **HAVE ONE EARLY VOTING CENTER ESTABLISHED IN THE COUNTY.**

12 (3) **A COUNTY WITH AT LEAST 50,000 REGISTERED VOTERS BUT**
13 **FEWER THAN 100,000 REGISTERED VOTERS SHALL HAVE TWO EARLY VOTING**
14 **CENTERS ESTABLISHED IN THE COUNTY.**

15 (4) **A COUNTY WITH AT LEAST 100,000 REGISTERED VOTERS BUT**
16 **FEWER THAN 200,000 REGISTERED VOTERS SHALL HAVE THREE EARLY VOTING**
17 **CENTERS ESTABLISHED IN THE COUNTY.**

18 (5) **A COUNTY WITH AT LEAST 200,000 REGISTERED VOTERS BUT**
19 **FEWER THAN 300,000 REGISTERED VOTERS SHALL HAVE FIVE EARLY VOTING**
20 **CENTERS ESTABLISHED IN THE COUNTY.**

21 (6) **A COUNTY WITH AT LEAST 300,000 REGISTERED VOTERS BUT**
22 **FEWER THAN 400,000 REGISTERED VOTERS SHALL HAVE SEVEN EARLY VOTING**
23 **CENTERS ESTABLISHED IN THE COUNTY.**

24 (7) **A COUNTY WITH AT LEAST 400,000 REGISTERED VOTERS BUT**
25 **FEWER THAN 500,000 REGISTERED VOTERS SHALL HAVE NINE EARLY VOTING**
26 **CENTERS ESTABLISHED IN THE COUNTY.**

27 (8) **A COUNTY WITH AT LEAST 500,000 REGISTERED VOTERS BUT**
28 **FEWER THAN 600,000 REGISTERED VOTERS SHALL HAVE 11 EARLY VOTING**
29 **CENTERS ESTABLISHED IN THE COUNTY.**

30 (9) **A COUNTY WITH AT LEAST 600,000 REGISTERED VOTERS SHALL**
31 **HAVE 13 EARLY VOTING CENTERS ESTABLISHED IN THE COUNTY.**

1 **[(7)] (10)** In addition to the early voting centers required in this subsection,
2 each county may establish one additional early voting center if the State Board, in
3 collaboration with the local board, and the governing body of the county agree to establish
4 an additional early voting center.

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

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

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

11 (2) during the following hours:

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 (3) other measures as appropriate.

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

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

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
29 October 1, 2021.