
By: **Delegate Eckardt**
Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2001
Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law - Dorchester County - Exemption of Mechanical Lever**
3 **Machine Voting System**

4 FOR the purpose of exempting a voting system in Dorchester County from a certain
5 provision of law prohibiting the certification of voting systems that use
6 mechanical lever machines on a certain date; prohibiting the State Board of
7 Elections from decertifying a certain voting system in Dorchester County that
8 uses mechanical lever machines on a certain date; exempting Dorchester County
9 from a provision of law prohibiting a county from using mechanical lever voting
10 machines to conduct elections after a certain date unless a uniform statewide
11 voting system is developed and implemented; and generally relating to the
12 voting system in Dorchester County and use of mechanical lever machines.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article 33 - Election Code
15 Section 9-102(f), 9-103(d), and 9-107
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (1997 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

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

20 **Article 33 - Election Code**

21 9-102.

22 (f) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a voting
23 system authorized by law before July 1, 1978, including the use of paper ballots, shall
24 be deemed certified.

25 (2) [On] EXCEPT FOR A VOTING SYSTEM IN DORCHESTER COUNTY, ON
26 or after January 1, 2002, a voting system that uses mechanical lever machines may
27 not be deemed certified.

1 9-103.

2 (d) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a voting
3 system that is deemed certified under § 9-102(f) of this subtitle may not be
4 decertified by the State Board.

5 (2) [On] EXCEPT FOR A VOTING SYSTEM IN DORCHESTER COUNTY, ON
6 January 1, 2002, the State Board shall decertify a mechanical lever voting machine.

7 9-107.

8 (a) [On] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION, ON or
9 after January 1, 2002, a county may not use mechanical lever voting machines to
10 conduct elections.

11 (b) Until January 1, 2002, if a county uses mechanical lever voting machines
12 to conduct elections, the members of the local board:

13 (1) Shall appoint a voting machine custodian and a deputy custodian;
14 and

15 (2) May employ additional deputy custodians.

16 (c) The voting machine custodian and deputy custodians shall have the duties,
17 and complete any training program, specified in regulations adopted by the State
18 Board.

19 (D) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION DO NOT APPLY TO DORCHESTER
20 COUNTY UNLESS A STATEWIDE UNIFORM VOTING SYSTEM IS DEVELOPED AND
21 IMPLEMENTED.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
23 October 1, 2001.