

BY: Committee on Ways and Means

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 53

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in the sponsor line, strike “and Cadden” and substitute “, Barve, Cadden, Barkley, Bobo, Boschert, Boteler, Bozman, G. Clagett, Conroy, Frank, Gaines, Glassman, Goldwater, Kach, Kaiser, Kelley, Lee, Leopold, Mandel, McConkey, Miller, Morhaim, Murray, Proctor, Quinter, Ramirez, Ross, Stern, Taylor, Trueschler, F. Turner, and Vaughn”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, in line 8, after “districts;” insert “establishing a Task Force to Study Voting System Verification; establishing the membership of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation; authorizing a member of the Task Force to be reimbursed for certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to issue a report of its findings and recommendations on or before a certain date; providing for the application of this Act; requiring the Governor to allocate certain resources; providing for the termination of certain provisions of this Act; making certain provisions of this Act contingent on a certain finding by the Task Force; providing for the effective dates of this Act;”; and in line 9, strike “systems” and substitute “system verification”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 2, after line 25, insert:

“SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

- (a) There is a Task Force to Study Voting System Verification.
- (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:
 - (1) five members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,

(Over)

appointed by the President of the Senate;

(2) five members of the Election Law Subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee, appointed by the Speaker;

(3) the State Administrator of Elections, or the State Administrator of Elections' designee;

(4) the Chairman of the State Board of Elections, or the Chairman's designee;

(5) a representative of the Maryland Association of Elections Officials, appointed by the Governor;

(6) an individual with experience in the information technology of voting machines, appointed by the Governor; and

(7) an information technology officer from the Department of Budget and Management, appointed by the Secretary of Budget and Management.

(c) The Task Force shall study and make determinations on the feasibility of implementing, on or before January 1, 2006, a voting verification system.

(d) The Task Force shall study:

(1) the verification methods currently used with the direct recording electronic voting systems used by the State;

(2) the different methods and types of verification that can be used with the direct recording electronic voting systems;

(3) the best method to ensure the secrecy of the ballot for disabled and visually impaired voters;

(4) the ability of the verification system to accommodate multiple languages; and

(5) possible cost effective alternatives for implementing the verification methods.

(e) The Task Force shall:

(1) determine whether or not it is feasible to implement, on or before January 1, 2006, a voting system that produces voter-verified paper records; and

(2) submit its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on or before December 31, 2004.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 1 of this Act shall apply to each election occurring on or after January 1, 2006 that is required to be conducted in accordance with the Election Law Article.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Governor shall allocate the resources required to implement the requirements of Section 1 of this Act, including any gift received by the State for the purposes of this Act under § 2-201 of the State Finance and Procurement Article, or, except for federal funds received by the State to implement the requirements of The Help America Vote Act 2002, any federal or other special funds or grant received by the State in accordance with federal and State law for the purposes of this Act by fiscal year 2006.

SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Sections 1 and 3 of this Act shall take effect on October 1, 2005, contingent on a finding by the Task Force to Study Voting System Verification, as required under Section 2 of this Act, that it is feasible to implement a system that produces voter-verified paper records by January 1, 2006.

SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as provided in Section 5 of this Act, this Act shall take effect July 1, 2004. Section 2 of this Act shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2005, with no further action required by the General Assembly, Section 2 of this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.”;

and strike in their entirety lines 26 and 27.