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By: **Delegates Patterson, Bozman, Cryor, C. Davis, Gilleland, Howard, King,**
      Marriott, McKee, Myers, Ramirez, Ross, and Taylor
Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2005
Assigned to: Ways and Means
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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2   **Election Law - Voting System - Study of Independent Verification Systems**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Administrator of Elections to study, review,
4   and evaluate independent verification systems for the voting system currently
5   used in the State; requiring the study to be conducted during certain municipal
6   elections; authorizing the State Administrator to seek assistance from certain
7   individuals in conducting the study; requiring the State Administrator to report
8   to the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the
9   termination of this Act; and generally relating to a study of independent
10   verification systems for the State's voting system.

11   SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
12 MARYLAND, That:

13   (a)   The State Administrator of Elections shall study, review, and evaluate
14 independent verification systems for the voting system currently used in the State.

15   (b)   The study shall be conducted during municipal elections in the following
16 counties:

17   (1)   Anne Arundel;

18   (2)   Montgomery;

19   (3)   Prince George's;

20   (4)   Wicomico; and

21   (5)   any other county the State Administrator of Elections considers
22 feasible.

23   (c)   The State Administrator of Elections shall determine:

24   (1)   the independent verification system that provides the best method of
25 independent verification of the accuracy of the voting system;

1   (2)   the independent verification system that provides the best audit
2 trails;

3   (3)   the costs of implementing independent verification systems;

4   (4)   whether there is a need to develop or modify existing software on the
5 voting system to accommodate an independent verification system;

6   (5)   whether the independent verification systems are compatible to the
7 voting system currently used in the State; and

8   (6)   the usability of the independent verification systems by obtaining
9 feedback from the public.

10   (d)   The State Administrator of Elections may seek assistance to conduct the
11 study from:

12   (1)   professionals in the computer industry;

13   (2)   academic professionals; or

14   (3)   community activists.

15   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the State Administrator
16 of Elections shall report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly
17 on or before December 1, 2005, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government
18 Article.

19   SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
20 June 1, 2005. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31,
21 2006, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
22 abrogated and of no further force and effect.