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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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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted with floor amendments

Read second time: March 25, 2005

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

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, including at least one system  
5 that includes a voter-verified paper audit trail, for the voting system currently  
6 used in the State; requiring the study to be conducted during certain municipal  
7 elections; authorizing the State Administrator to seek assistance from certain  
8 individuals in conducting the study; establishing an advisory committee to  
9 assist and advise the State Administrator in a certain review; providing for the  
10 membership of the advisory committee; providing for the duties of the advisory  
11 committee; requiring the State Administrator to report to the General Assembly  
12 on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and  
13 generally relating to a study of independent verification systems for the State's  
14 voting system.

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
16 MARYLAND, That:

17 (a) The State Administrator of Elections shall study, review, and evaluate  
18 independent verification systems, including at least one system that includes a  
19 voter-verified paper audit trail, for the voting system currently used in the State.

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

22 (1) Anne Arundel;

23 (2) Montgomery;

- 1 (3) Prince George's;  
2 (4) Wicomico; and  
3 (5) any other county the State Administrator of Elections considers  
4 feasible.

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

- 6 (1) the independent verification system that provides the best method of  
7 independent verification of the accuracy of the voting system;
- 8 (2) the independent verification system that provides the best audit  
9 trails;
- 10 (3) the costs of implementing independent verification systems;
- 11 (4) whether there is a need to develop or modify existing software on the  
12 voting system to accommodate an independent verification system;
- 13 (5) whether the independent verification systems are compatible to the  
14 voting system currently used in the State; and
- 15 (6) the usability of the independent verification systems by obtaining  
16 feedback from the public.

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

- 19 (1) professionals in the computer industry;  
20 (2) academic professionals; or  
21 (3) community activists.

22 (e) (1) There is an advisory committee to assist and advise the State  
23 Administrator in the review and evaluation of independent verification systems.

24 (2) The advisory committee consists of:

25 (i) five members appointed by the Speaker of the House from the  
26 House Ways and Means Committee; and

27 (ii) five members appointed by the President of the Senate from the  
28 Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee; and

29 (iii) three members who have broad technical competence and  
30 experience with voting systems, appointed jointly by the Speaker of the House and  
31 the President of the Senate.

1           (3)     The advisory committee shall provide guidance to the State  
2 Administrator on the review, evaluation, and study of independent verification  
3 systems.

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

8       SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
9 June 1, 2005. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31,  
10 2006, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be  
11 abrogated and of no further force and effect.