

ENROLLED BILL

-- Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs/Ways and Means --

Introduced by **Senators Dyson, Conway, and Hollinger**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this
____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, ____ M.

President.

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 assist*
9 *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:

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

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

6 (1) Anne Arundel;

7 (2) Montgomery;

8 (3) Prince George's;

9 (4) Wicomico; and

10 (5) any other county the State Administrator of Elections considers
11 feasible.

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

13 (1) the independent verification system that provides the best method of
14 independent verification of the accuracy of the voting system;

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

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

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

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

22 (6) the usability of the independent verification systems by obtaining
23 feedback from the public.

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

26 (1) professionals in the computer industry;

27 (2) academic professionals; or

28 (3) community activists.

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

31 (2) The advisory committee consists of:

1 (i) three members appointed by the Speaker of the House from the
2 House Ways and Means Committee;

3 (ii) three members appointed by the President of the Senate from the
4 Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee; and

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

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

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

15 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
16 June 1, 2005. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31,
17 2006, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
18 abrogated and of no further force and effect.