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By: **Senators Dyson, Conway, and Hollinger**

Introduced and read first time: February 14, 2005

Assigned to: Rules

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Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted with floor amendments

Read second time: March 22, 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; requiring the State Administrator to report  
9 to the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the  
10 termination of this Act; and generally relating to a study of independent  
11 verification systems for the State's voting system.

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

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

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

19 (1) Anne Arundel;

20 (2) Montgomery;

21 (3) Prince George's;

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

5 (1) the independent verification system that provides the best method of  
6 independent verification of the accuracy of the voting system;

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

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

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

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

14 (6) the usability of the independent verification systems by obtaining  
15 feedback from the public.

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

18 (1) professionals in the computer industry;

19 (2) academic professionals; or

20 (3) community activists.

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

25 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
26 June 1, 2005. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31,  
27 2006, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be  
28 abrogated and of no further force and effect.

