
By: **Senators Dyson, Conway, and Hollinger**
Introduced and read first time: February 14, 2005
Assigned to: Rules
Re-referred to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs, February 21, 2005

Committee Report: Favorable
Senate action: Adopted with floor amendments
Read second time: March 22, 2005

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;

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

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.

