

SB0163/183823/1

BY: Senator Simonaire

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 163
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1 of the bill, in line 2, strike “**Ballots –**” and substitute “**Ballot**”; in the same line, after “**Procedures**” insert “**and Audit of Absentee Ballots**”; in line 6, after “procedures” insert “and audits of absentee ballots”; and in line 14, after “11–303.2” insert “and 11–310”.

On page 1 of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee Amendments (SB0163/453621/1), in line 5 of Amendment No. 1, after “manner;” insert “requiring the State Board of Elections, in collaboration with the local boards, to conduct an audit of absentee ballots cast in each statewide election that consists of verifying the voter’s signature for each ballot selected for audit;”; and in lines 6 and 7, strike “of Elections”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 5 of the bill, after line 14, insert:

“11–310.

(A) THE STATE BOARD, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE LOCAL BOARDS, SHALL CONDUCT AN AUDIT OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS CAST IN EACH STATEWIDE ELECTION THAT CONSISTS OF VERIFYING THE VOTER’S SIGNATURE FOR EACH BALLOT SELECTED FOR AUDIT.

(B) IF, DURING THE AUDIT OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SIGNATURES THAT CANNOT BE VERIFIED EXCEEDS THE AUDIT THRESHOLD DETERMINED BY THE STATE BOARD, THE LOCAL BOARD SHALL, FROM THE TIME

(Over)

THAT THE AUDIT THRESHOLD IS EXCEEDED, AUDIT ALL THE ABSENTEE BALLOTS THAT REMAIN TO BE CANVASSED.

(C) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION, WHICH SHALL INCLUDE:

(1) THE METHOD FOR VERIFYING VOTER SIGNATURES;

(2) THE METHOD FOR CURING ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR WHICH THE LOCAL BOARD IS UNABLE TO VERIFY THE SIGNATURE;

(3) THE NUMBER OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS THAT A LOCAL BOARD IS REQUIRED TO AUDIT; AND

(4) THE AUDIT THRESHOLD.”.