



**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB0642: Recount Law Revisions**

Education, Energy, Environment (& Elections!) Committee

Thursday, February 16, 2023 1PM

**HB0642** would provide an overdue update to Maryland's recount laws. In recent years, we've had a number of extraordinarily close elections. This includes races for Baltimore County Executive (2018) and Montgomery County Executive (2018 and 2022).

This bill would simplify [MD's Recount Law](#), which should be revised:

1. A rescan of voted paper ballots involved in the recount using precinct tabulators or a high-speed scanner (if available) to reproduce early voting, precinct or mail-in, or provisional ballot canvass totals; or
2. Conduct a manual recount of voted paper ballots involved in the recount.
3. A manual tabulation of printed reports from early voting, election day, and the mail-in and provisional ballot canvasses. Under this option, printed reports from precinct tabulators and high-speed scanners (if available) are examined and manually tabulated.
4. Any other recount method approved by the State Administrator.

This bill would also clarify that candidates may request either a full or partial recount of votes. Additionally, it requires that Local Boards of Elections maintain standards for scanning and storing Internet-delivered ballots. Specifically, they would:

- Maintain the original source documents for any ballot requiring manual duplication;
- Keep each sheet batched with the duplicated ballots that were scanned; and
- Rely only on the original source documents in any manual recount.

To make sure the certification of our election results goes smoothly, this change to recount procedures establishes a process with a clear framework for Local Boards of Elections to follow.

**I urge a favorable report on HB0642.**