

and procedures assuring that fair and accurate elections take place within the State. For the above stated reasons, I have vetoed Senate Bill 849.

Very truly yours,
Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor

Senate Bill No. 849

AN ACT concerning

Election Law - Voting System - Study of Independent Verification Systems

FOR the purpose of requiring the State Administrator of Elections to study, review, and evaluate independent verification systems, including at least one system that includes a voter verified paper audit trail, for the voting system currently used in the State; requiring the study to be conducted during certain municipal elections; authorizing the State Administrator to seek assistance from certain individuals in conducting the study; establishing an advisory committee to assist and advise the State Administrator in a certain review; providing for the membership of the advisory committee; providing for the duties of the advisory committee; requiring the State Administrator to report to the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to a study of independent verification systems for the State's voting system.

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

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

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

- (1) Anne Arundel;
- (2) Montgomery;
- (3) Prince George's;
- (4) Wicomico; and

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

(c) The State Administrator of Elections shall determine:

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