

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

(3) the costs of implementing independent verification systems;

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

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

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

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

(1) professionals in the computer industry;

(2) academic professionals; or

(3) community activists.

(e) (1) There is an advisory committee to assist and advise the State Administrator in the review and evaluation of independent verification systems.

(2) The advisory committee consists of:

(i) three members appointed by the Speaker of the House from the House Ways and Means Committee;

(ii) three members appointed by the President of the Senate from the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee; and

(iii) three members who have broad technical competence and experience with voting systems, appointed jointly by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate.

(3) The advisory committee shall provide guidance to the State Administrator on the review, evaluation, and study of independent verification systems.

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

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

May 26, 2005