

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;

(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.