

1 **H. B. 4198**

2
3 (By Delegates Poore, Manchin, Longstreth, Lynch,
4 Pino, Sponaugle, Overington, Shott and Sobonya)

5 [Introduced January 16, 2014; referred to the
6 Committee on the Judiciary.]

7
8
9
10 A BILL to amend and reenact §3-4A-28 of the Code of West Virginia,
11 1931, as amended, relating to amending canvassing process to
12 eliminate hand counting of electronic voting systems.

13 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

14 That §3-4A-28 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,
15 be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

16 **ARTICLE 4A. ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS.**

17 **§3-4A-28. Post-election custody and inspection of vote-recording**
18 **devices and electronic poll books; canvass and**
19 **recounts.**

20 (a) The vote-recording devices, electronic poll books,
21 tabulating programs and standard validation test ballots are to
22 remain sealed during the canvass of the returns of the election,
23 except that the equipment may be opened for the canvass and must be
24 resealed immediately thereafter. During the seven-day period after

1 the completion of the canvass, any candidate or the local chair of
2 a political party may be permitted to examine any of the sealed
3 materials: *Provided*, That a notice of the time and place of the
4 examination ~~shall be~~ is posted at the central counting center
5 before and on the hour of nine o'clock in the morning on the day
6 the examination is to occur and all persons entitled to be present
7 at the central counting center may, at their option, be present.
8 Upon completion of the canvass and after the seven-day period has
9 expired, the vote-recording devices, test results and standard
10 validation test ballots are to be sealed for one year: *Provided*,
11 *however*, That the vote-recording devices, electronic poll books,
12 and all tabulating equipment may be released for use in any other
13 lawful election to be held more than ten days after the canvass is
14 completed and any of the electronic voting equipment or electronic
15 poll books discussed in this section may be released for inspection
16 or review by a request of a circuit court or the Supreme Court of
17 Appeals.

18 (b) In canvassing the returns of the election, the board of
19 canvassers shall examine ~~as required by subsection (d) of this~~
20 ~~section~~, all of the vote-recording devices, electronic poll books,
21 the automatic tabulating equipment used in the election and those
22 voter-verified paper ballots generated by direct recording
23 electronic vote machines; shall determine the number of votes cast
24 for each candidate and for and against each question; and, by this

1 examination, shall procure the correct returns and ascertain the
2 true results of the election. Any candidate or his or her party
3 representative may be present at the examination.

4 (c) If any qualified individual demands a recount of the votes
5 cast at an election, the voter-verified paper ballot shall be used
6 according to the same rules that are used in the original vote
7 count pursuant to section twenty-seven of this article. For
8 purposes of this subsection, "qualified individual" means a person
9 who is a candidate for office on the ballot or a voter affected by
10 an issue, other than an individual's candidacy, on the ballot.

11 ~~(d) During the canvass and any requested recount, at least~~
12 ~~five percent of the precincts are to be chosen at random and the~~
13 ~~voter-verified paper ballots are to be counted manually. Whenever~~
14 ~~the vote total obtained from the manual count of the voter-verified~~
15 ~~paper ballots for all votes cast in a randomly selected precinct:~~
16 ~~(1) Differs by more than one percent from the automated vote~~
17 ~~tabulation equipment; or~~

18 ~~(2) Results in a different prevailing candidate or outcome,~~
19 ~~either passage or defeat, of one or more ballot issues in the~~
20 ~~randomly selected precincts for any contest or ballot issue, then~~
21 ~~the discrepancies shall immediately be disclosed to the public and~~
22 ~~all of the voter-verified paper ballots shall be manually counted.~~
23 ~~In every case where there is a difference between the vote totals~~
24 ~~obtained from the automated vote tabulation equipment and the~~

1 ~~corresponding vote totals obtained from the manual count of the~~
2 ~~voter-verified paper ballots, the manual count of the voter-~~
3 ~~verified paper ballots is the vote of record.~~

NOTE: This bill was recommended for introduction and passage by the Joint Committee on the Judiciary. The purpose of this bill is to remove the hand canvassing requirements of electronic voting machines, while leaving intact the recount provisions.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.