

The House Committee on Governmental Affairs offers the following substitute to HB 974:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 primaries and elections generally, so as to require the Secretary of State to establish and
3 maintain a state-wide system for the posting of scanned paper ballots; to provide for the
4 scanning of tabulated absentee ballots; to provide for minimum resolution requirements for
5 each such scan; to provide for the posting of such scanned ballots; to provide for related
6 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to primaries and
10 elections generally, is amended in Code Section 21-2-493, relating to computation,
11 canvassing, and tabulation of returns, investigation of discrepancies in vote counts, recount
12 procedure, pilot program for posting of digital images of scanned paper ballots, certification
13 of returns, and change in returns, by revising subsection (j.1) as follows:

14 "(j.1) The Secretary of State shall create and maintain a pilot state-wide program for the
15 posting of digital images of the scanned paper ballots created by the voting system. All
16 such scans shall have a resolution of no less than 200 dots per inch."

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17 **SECTION 2.**

18 Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 21-2-386, relating to safekeeping,
19 certification, and validation of absentee ballots, rejection of ballot, delivery of ballots to
20 location designated by superintendent, duties of superintendent and managers, precinct
21 returns, report of returns of verified and accepted absentee ballots cast as soon as possible
22 following closing of polls, notification of challenged elector, and unlawful disclosure of
23 tabulation results, by adding a new subsection to read as follows:

24 "(g) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, including, but not limited
25 to, the certification requirement in paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of Code
26 Section 21-2-300, all absentee ballots tabulated pursuant to this Code section shall be
27 scanned so that there is a digital image of each such ballot. All such scans shall have a
28 resolution of no less than 600 dots per inch, or the highest resolution possible within the
29 certified voting system. All such scans shall be posted by the program provided for in
30 subsection (j.1) of Code Section 21-2-493."

31 **SECTION 3.**

32 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.