

The Senate Committee on Ethics offered the following substitute to SB 568:

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 elections and primaries generally, so as to require that the list of eligible voters is posted and
3 made public prior to each primary or election; to provide for civil fines in the event that
4 registrars fail to remove a person from the list of registered voters following a successful
5 challenge; to revise provisions related to the uniform system of election equipment to be used
6 after July 1, 2026; to revise provisions related to ballot design; to provide that timing marks
7 may be used on ballots to determine an elector's marked selections; to provide that, if
8 multiple advance voting locations are utilized in a jurisdiction, designated precincts shall be
9 assigned to each such location and only electors registered in such precincts shall cast ballots
10 at their designated advance voting locations; to require the posting of a list of electors who
11 cast ballots in an election upon the closing of the polls; to require the Secretary of State to
12 maintain an archival database of such lists; to revise provisions related to data that must be
13 posted with scanned ballots following the closing of the polls; to revise provisions related to
14 certain recounts of votes; to revise provisions related to risk-limiting audits; to provide
15 conforming changes; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
16 purposes.

17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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SECTION 1.

Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elections and primaries generally, is amended in Code Section 21-2-224, relating to registration deadlines, restrictions on voting in primaries, official list of electors, and voting procedure when portion of county changed from one county to another, by revising subsection (f) as follows:

"(f) The official list of electors eligible to vote in any primary or election shall be prepared and completed at least five calendar days prior to the ~~date of the~~ first day of advance voting as provided for in subsection (d) of Code Section 21-2-385 in a primary or election in which the list is to be used. On such fifth calendar day prior to the first day of advance voting, such list shall be deemed a public record subject to inspection and copying pursuant to Article 4 of Chapter 18 of Title 50."

SECTION 2.

Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 21-2-229, relating to challenge of applicant for registration by other electors, notice and hearing, right of appeal, and sanctions for board's noncompliance, by revising subsection (f) as follows:

"(f) Failure to comply with the provisions of this Code section by the board of registrars shall subject such board to sanctions by the State Election Board, including civil fines of up to \$10,000.00 per registration not properly removed."

SECTION 3.

Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 21-2-230, relating to challenge of persons on list of electors by other electors, procedure, hearing, and right of appeal, by revising subsection (j) as follows:

"(j) Failure to comply with the provisions of this Code section by the board of registrars shall subject such board to sanctions by the State Election Board, including civil fines of up to \$10,000.00 per registration not properly removed."

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SECTION 4.

Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 21-2-300, relating to provision of new voting equipment by state, uniform system using ballot scanners, pilot programs, county obligations, and use of physical ballots, by revising subsection (a) as follows:

"(a)(1) The equipment used for casting and counting votes in county, state, and federal elections shall be the same in each county in this state and shall be provided to each county by the state, as determined by the Secretary of State.

(2) Once As soon as possible, once such equipment is certified by the Secretary of State as safe and practicable for use, all federal, state, and county general primaries and general elections as well as special primaries and special elections in the State of Georgia occurring after July 1, 2026, shall be conducted with the use of scanning ballots marked by electronic ballot markers and an optical scanning voting system utilizing preprinted, hand marked paper ballots. Ballots shall be tabulated by using ballot scanners with activated infrared detectors to detect counterfeit ballots and to create scanned images of tabulated ballots for voting at the polls and for absentee ballots cast in person, unless otherwise authorized by law; provided, however, that electronic ballot markers shall be available and accessible at each polling place and advance voting location for individuals with disabilities and that any such electronic ballot markers shall produce paper ballots which are marked with the elector's choices in a format readable by the elector.

(3) The state shall furnish a uniform system of election equipment for use in each county. Additionally, the state shall furnish a uniform system of electronic ballot markers and ballot scanners in sufficient numbers to comply with Code Section 21-2-379.21 for use in each county as soon as possible. Such equipment shall be certified by the United States Election Assistance Commission prior to purchase, lease, or acquisition. At its own expense, the governing authority of a county may purchase, lease, or otherwise acquire additional electronic ballot markers optical scanning voting system equipment and ballot scanners of the type furnished by the state; if the governing authority so

70 desires. Additionally, at its own expense, the governing authority of a municipality may
 71 choose to acquire its own ~~electronic ballot markers~~ optical scanning voting system
 72 equipment and ballot scanners by purchase, lease, or other procurement process.

73 ~~(4) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Secretary of State is~~
 74 ~~authorized to conduct pilot programs to test and evaluate the use of electronic ballot~~
 75 ~~markers and ballot scanners in primaries and elections in this state."~~

76 **SECTION 5.**

77 Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 21-2-369, relating to printing of ballots and
 78 arrangement, by revising subsection (a) as follows:

79 "(a) The ballots shall be printed in black ink upon ~~clear, white, or colored~~ material, of such
 80 size and arrangement as will suit the construction of the ballot scanner, and in plain, clear
 81 type so as to be easily readable by persons with normal vision; ~~provided, however, that red~~
 82 ~~material shall not be used except that all ovals appearing on the ballot to indicate where a~~
 83 ~~voter should mark to cast a vote may be printed in red ink."~~

84 **SECTION 6.**

85 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 21-2-372, relating to ballot
 86 description and watermark required, as follows:

87 "21-2-372.

88 Ballots shall be of suitable design, size, and stock to permit processing by a ballot scanner
 89 and shall be printed in black ink on ~~clear, white, or colored~~ material. Printed ballots shall
 90 also include a solid unique line connecting a candidate's name or ballot question answer
 91 with the selection oval relating to such candidate or answer. Other than ballots delivered
 92 electronically to qualified electors who are entitled to vote by absentee ballot under the
 93 federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, 52 U.S.C. Section 20301,
 94 et seq., the ballots shall be printed on security paper that incorporates features which can

95 be used to authenticate the ballot as an official ballot, including, but not limited, to a unique
96 serialized ballot batch identifier number in batches of 100, but which do not make the
97 ballot identifiable to a particular elector, provided that at least one such feature is a visible
98 watermark that identifies the ballot as an official Georgia ballot."

99 **SECTION 7.**

100 Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 21-2-379.23, relating to requirements for
101 ballot display and official ballot for vote tabulation, recount, and audit, as effective on
102 July 1, 2026, by revising subsection (d) as follows:

103 "(d) The text portion of the paper ballot marked ~~and~~ by the elector or printed by the
104 electronic ballot marker indicating the elector's selection shall constitute the official ballot
105 and shall constitute the official vote for purposes of vote tabulation, any recount conducted
106 pursuant to Code Section 21-2-495, and any audit conducted pursuant to Code
107 Section 21-2-498. The official tabulation count of any ballot scanner shall be based upon
108 the text portion or the machine mark, provided that such mark clearly denotes the elector's
109 selection and does not use a QR code, bar code, or similar coding, of such ballots and not
110 any machine coding that may be printed on such ballots; provided, however, that nothing
111 in this chapter shall be deemed to prohibit or prevent the use of timing marks by optical
112 scanning voting systems to determine the elector's marked selection."

113 **SECTION 8.**

114 Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 21-2-383, relating to preparation and
115 delivery of ballots, form of ballots, casting ballot in person using DRE unit, and casting
116 ballot in person or as absentee using electronic ballot markers, by adding a new subsection
117 to read as follows:

118 "(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Code section to the contrary, in
119 jurisdictions in which an optical scanning voting system with ballot scanners is used in

120 polling places on election day, such scanners shall be used for casting absentee ballots in
121 person at a registrar's or absentee ballot clerk's office or in accordance with subsection (d)
122 of Code Section 21-2-385."

123 **SECTION 9.**

124 Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 21-2-385, relating to procedure for voting
125 by absentee ballot and advance voting, by revising subsection (d) as follows:

126 "(d)(1) There shall be a period of advance voting that shall commence:

127 (A) On the fourth Monday immediately prior to each primary or election; and

128 (B) As soon as possible prior to a runoff from any general primary or election but no
129 later than the second Monday immediately prior to such runoff

130 and shall end on the Friday immediately prior to each primary, election, or runoff.
131 Voting shall be conducted beginning at 9:00 A.M. and ending at 5:00 P.M. on weekdays,
132 other than observed state holidays, during such period and shall be conducted on the
133 second and third Saturdays during the hours of 9:00 A.M. through 5:00 P.M. and, if the
134 registrar or absentee ballot clerk so chooses, the second Sunday, the third Sunday, or both
135 the second and third Sundays prior to a primary or election during hours determined by
136 the registrar or absentee ballot clerk, but no longer than 7:00 A.M. through 7:00 P.M.;
137 provided, however, that, if such second Saturday is a public and legal holiday pursuant
138 to Code Section 1-4-1, if such second Saturday follows a public and legal holiday
139 occurring on the Thursday or Friday immediately preceding such second Saturday, or if
140 such second Saturday immediately precedes a public and legal holiday occurring on the
141 following Sunday or Monday, such advance voting shall not be held on such second
142 Saturday but shall be held on the third Saturday prior to such primary or election
143 beginning at 9:00 A.M. and ending at 5:00 P.M. Except as otherwise provided in this
144 paragraph, the registrars may extend the hours for voting to permit advance voting from
145 7:00 A.M. until 7:00 P.M. and may provide for additional voting locations pursuant to

146 paragraph (1.1) of this subsection and Code Section 21-2-382 to suit the needs of the
147 electors of the jurisdiction at their option; provided, however, that voting shall occur only
148 on the days specified in this paragraph and counties and municipalities shall not be
149 authorized to conduct advance voting on any other days.

150 (1.1) Notwithstanding any provision of Code Section 21-2-382 to the contrary:

151 (A) In the event that the registrars for a county provide more than one advance voting
152 location, the registrars shall designate a specific advance voting location for each
153 precinct in the county. Only the electors who are registered to vote in the precincts
154 designated for a specific advance voting location may cast a vote pursuant to this
155 subsection at such advance voting location; and

156 (B) In the event that the registrars for a municipality provide more than one advance
157 voting location, the registrars shall designate a specific advance voting location for each
158 precinct in the municipality. Only the electors who are registered to vote in the
159 precincts designated for a specific advance voting location may cast a vote pursuant to
160 this subsection at such advance voting location.

161 (2) The registrars or absentee ballot clerk, as appropriate, shall provide reasonable notice
162 to the electors of their jurisdiction of the availability of advance voting as well as the
163 times, dates, and each voter's assigned locations at which advance voting will be
164 conducted. In addition, the registrars or absentee ballot clerk shall notify the Secretary
165 of State in the manner prescribed by the Secretary of State of the times, dates, and
166 locations at which advance voting will be conducted.

167 (3) The board of registrars shall publish the dates, times, and locations of the availability
168 of advance voting in its jurisdiction on the homepage of the county's publicly accessible
169 website associated with elections or registrations, or if the county does not have such a
170 website, in a newspaper of general circulation, and by posting in a prominent location in
171 the county, no later than 14 days prior to the beginning of the advance voting period for
172 a general primary, special primary, general election, or special election and no later than

173 seven days prior to the beginning of the advance voting period for any run-off election.
 174 ~~Any new advance voting locations added after that deadline shall be published in the~~
 175 ~~same manner as soon as possible.~~ If multiple advance voting locations are provided for
 176 in a jurisdiction, the registrars shall also publish a list of which precincts are assigned to
 177 each advance voting locations and provide notices that only those electors registered to
 178 vote in a precinct assigned to a designated advance voting location may cast an advance
 179 vote at a specific advance voting location. The board of registrars shall not remove any
 180 advance voting location after the notice of such location is published, except in the case
 181 of an emergency or unavoidable event that renders a location unavailable for use. Any
 182 changes that are made due to an emergency or unavoidable event after a notice of a
 183 location has been published shall be published as soon as possible in the same manner set
 184 forth in this paragraph."

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SECTION 10.

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Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 21-2-421, relating to posting of
 187 required information after closing of polls and reporting to Secretary of State, as follows:

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"21-2-421.

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(a) As soon as possible but not later than 11:59 P.M. following the close of the polls on
 190 the day of a primary, election, or runoff, the election superintendent shall report to the
 191 Secretary of State and ~~post in a prominent public place~~ the Secretary shall post on the
 192 Secretary's website the following information:

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(1) The number of ballots cast at the polls on the day of the primary, election, or runoff,
 194 including provisional ballots cast;

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(2) The number of ballots cast at advance voting locations during the advance voting
 196 period for the primary, election, or runoff; and

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197 (3) The total number of absentee ballots returned to the board of registrars by the
 198 deadline to receive such absentee ballots on the day of the primary, election, or runoff;
 199 and

200 (4) An enumerated list of electors who cast ballots during such primary, election, or
 201 runoff.

202 (b) Upon the completion of the report provided for in subsection (a) of this Code section,
 203 the election superintendent shall compare the total number of ballots received as reported
 204 in subsection (a) of this Code section and the counting of the ballots in the primary,
 205 election, or runoff minus any rejected and uncured absentee ballots, uncounted provisional
 206 ballots, and any other uncounted ballots, with the total number of ballots cast in the
 207 primary, election, or runoff. The results of such comparison and all explanatory materials
 208 shall be reported to the Secretary of State. The reason for any discrepancy shall be fully
 209 investigated and reported to the Secretary of State.

210 (c) The Secretary of State shall maintain an archival database of the lists of electors
 211 required by paragraph (4) of subsection (a) of this Code section, and such lists shall be
 212 added to such database within one hour of being received and shall remain unchanged once
 213 placed in such database."

214 **SECTION 11.**

215 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 21-2-481, relating to design, size,
 216 and stock of ballots, as follows:

217 "21-2-481.

218 Ballots in a precinct using optical scanning voting equipment shall be ~~of suitable design,~~
 219 ~~size, and stock to permit processing by a tabulating machine and shall be printed in black~~
 220 ~~ink on white or colored material. A serially numbered strip shall be attached to each ballot~~
 221 ~~to be counted by a central count tabulator~~ in the same form as required by Code
 222 Section 21-2-372."

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SECTION 12.

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Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 21-2-493, relating to computation, canvassing, and tabulation of returns, investigation of discrepancies in vote counts, recount procedure, posting of digital images of scanned paper ballots, certification of returns, and change in returns, by revising subsections (c), (e), (g), (j.1), and (j.2) as follows:

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"(c) In precincts in which paper ballots or optical scanning voting systems have been used, the superintendent may require the production of the ballot box and the recount of the ballots contained in such ballot box, either generally or respecting the particular office, nomination, or question as to which the excess exists, in the discretion of the superintendent, and may require the correction of the returns in accordance with the result of such recount. If the ballot box is found to contain more ballots than there are electors registered in such precinct or more ballots than the number of voters who voted in such precinct at such primary or election, the superintendent may, in his or her discretion, exclude the poll of that precinct, either as to all offices, candidates, questions, or parties and bodies or as to any particular offices, candidates, questions, or parties and bodies, as to which such excess exists."

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"(e) In precincts in which paper ballots or optical scanning voting systems have been used, the general returns made by the poll officers from the various precincts shall be read one after another in the usual order, slowly and audibly, by one of the assistants who shall, in each case of a return from a precinct in which ballots were used, read therefrom the number of ballots issued, spoiled, canceled, and cast, respectively, whereupon the assistant having charge of the records of the superintendent showing the number of ballots furnished for each precinct, including the number of stubs, where used, and unused ballots and spoiled and canceled ballots returned, shall publicly announce the number of the same respectively; and, unless it appears by such number or calculations therefrom that such records and such

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248 general return correspond, no further returns shall be read from the latter until all
249 discrepancies are explained to the satisfaction of the superintendent."

250 "(g) In precincts in which paper ballots or optical scanning voting systems have been used,
251 when the records agree with such returns regarding the number of ballots and the number
252 of votes recorded for each candidate, such votes for each candidate shall be read by an
253 assistant slowly, audibly, and in an orderly manner from the general return which has been
254 returned unsealed; and the figures announced shall be compared by other assistants with
255 the general return which has been returned sealed. The figures announced for all precincts
256 shall be compared by one of the assistants with the tally papers from the respective
257 precincts. If any discrepancies are discovered, the superintendent shall examine all of the
258 return sheets, tally papers, and other papers in his or her possession relating to the same
259 precinct. If the tally papers and sealed general return sheet agree, the unsealed general
260 return shall be immediately corrected to conform thereto. In every other case the
261 superintendent shall immediately cause the ballot box of the precinct to be opened and the
262 vote therein to be recounted in the presence of interested candidates or their
263 representatives; and, if the recount shall not be sufficient to correct the error, the
264 superintendent may summon the poll officers to appear immediately with all election
265 papers in their possession."

266 "(j.1) The Secretary of State shall create and maintain a state-wide program for the posting
267 of digital images of the scanned paper ballots created by the voting system. All such scans
268 shall have a resolution of no less than 200 dots per inch. Such posted scans shall include
269 the authentication files for such scans, and such scans shall be posted by precinct for each
270 county. Digital images of the scanned ballots created as part of the preliminary tabulation
271 process, cast vote records, security logs, and system log files of central tabulators shall be
272 posted no later than 5:00 P.M. on the second Friday following the day of the election, and
273 such postings shall be supplemented by the posting of any additional ballot images created
274 in the tabulation process through final certification of such election.

275 (j.2)(1) ~~In~~ ~~On or after January 1, 2025,~~ in the event that a superintendent receives a request
276 pursuant to Code Section 50-18-71 for scanned ballot images at a resolution higher than
277 the ballot images available from the Secretary of State pursuant to subsection (j.1) of this
278 Code section, and such request is received following the final certification of the results of
279 the election in which such ballots were created, the superintendent shall, consistent with
280 Code Section 50-18-71, produce digital scans of the requested ballots at a resolution of no
281 less than 600 dots per inch and deliver such scans to the requestor; provided, however, that
282 the superintendent shall not be authorized to charge any fee authorized by Code Section
283 50-18-71 for such request. A person making a request pursuant to this subsection may
284 observe the scanning and related handling process, but under no circumstances shall
285 anyone other than an authorized election official touch or handle a physical ballot. In no
286 event shall the superintendent take more than 30 days from the date of request to deliver
287 such request to the requestor.

288 (2) Notwithstanding any seal provided for by Code Section 21-2-500, a superintendent
289 shall have access to the ballots cast within its jurisdiction so as to comply with the
290 provisions of this subsection. Upon receiving a request pursuant to this subsection, the
291 superintendent shall notify the clerk of the superior court or, if designated by the clerk of
292 the superior court, the county records manager or other office or official under the
293 jurisdiction of a county governing authority which maintains or is responsible for
294 maintaining such sealed ballots, and such official or office that maintains such requested
295 ballot shall provide the superintendent access to such ballot without the need for obtaining
296 a court order. All ballots provided to a superintendent pursuant to this paragraph shall be
297 immediately returned by such superintendent to the official or office that maintains such
298 ballots upon the scanning of such ballot."

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SECTION 13.

Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 21-2-495, relating to procedure for recount or recanvass of votes, losing candidate's right to a recount, and rules and regulations, by revising subsection (c) as follows:

"(c)(1) Whenever the difference between the number of votes received by a candidate who has been declared nominated for an office in a primary election or who has been declared elected to an office in an election or who has been declared eligible for a run-off primary or election and the number of votes received by any other candidate or candidates not declared so nominated or elected or eligible for a runoff shall be not more than ~~one-half of~~ 1 percent of the total votes which were cast for such office therein, any such candidate or candidates receiving a sufficient number of votes so that the difference between his or her vote and that of a candidate declared nominated, elected, or eligible for a runoff is not more than ~~one-half of~~ 1 percent of the total votes cast, within a period of two business days following the certification of the election results, shall have the right to a recount of the votes cast, if such request is made in writing by the losing candidate. If the office sought is a federal or state office voted upon by the electors of more than one county, the request shall be made to the Secretary of State who shall direct that the recount be performed in all counties in which electors voted for such office and notify the superintendents of the several counties involved of the request. In all other cases, the request shall be made to the superintendent. The superintendent or superintendents shall order a recount of such votes to be made immediately. If, upon such recount, it is determined that the original count was incorrect, the returns and all papers prepared by the superintendent, the superintendents, or the Secretary of State shall be corrected accordingly and the results recertified.

(2) Whenever the difference between the number of votes for approval or rejection of a constitutional amendment or binding referendum question shall be not more than ~~one-half of~~ 1 percent of the total votes which were cast on such amendment or question therein,

326 within a period of two business days following the certification of the election results, the
327 Constitutional Amendments Publication Board shall be authorized in its discretion to call
328 for a recount of the votes cast with regard to such amendment or question. In the case of
329 a constitutional amendment or state-wide referendum question or a question voted upon
330 by the electors of more than one county, the board shall direct the Secretary of State to
331 cause a recount to be performed with regard to such amendment or question in all
332 counties involved and notify the superintendents of the recount. In the case of questions
333 voted upon by the electors of only one county or municipality, the board shall direct the
334 Secretary of State to cause a recount to be conducted by the county or municipality
335 involved and the Secretary of State shall notify the superintendent involved of the
336 recount. Upon notification, the superintendent or superintendents shall order a recount
337 of such votes to be made immediately. If, upon such recount, it is determined that the
338 original count was incorrect, the returns and all papers prepared by the superintendent,
339 the superintendents, or the Secretary of State shall be corrected accordingly and the
340 results recertified.

341 (3) Any recount pursuant to this subsection shall be conducted using a manual hand
342 count of all ballots cast in such primary or election."

343 **SECTION 14.**

344 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 21-2-498, relating to
345 precertification tabulation audits and risk-limiting audits, as follows:

346 "21-2-498.

347 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

348 (1) 'Incorrect outcome' means the winner of a contest or the answer to a proposed
349 constitutional amendment or question would be different from the results found in a
350 manual recount of paper official ballots.

351 (2) 'Risk limit' means the largest statistical probability that an incorrect outcome is not
352 detected or corrected in a risk-limiting audit; provided, however, that such probability
353 does not exceed:

- 354 (A) Eight percent in 2024;
355 (B) Six percent in 2026; and
356 (C) Five percent or less in 2028 and thereafter.

357 (3) 'Risk-limiting audit' means an audit protocol that makes use of statistical methods and
358 is designed to limit to acceptable levels the risk of certifying a preliminary election
359 outcome that constitutes an incorrect outcome.

360 ~~(4) 'Selected contests' means:~~

- 361 ~~(A) The contest at the top of a ballot; and~~
362 ~~(B) If the following races are on a ballot, one contest from the following races as~~
363 ~~selected pursuant to subsection (d) of this Code section: United States Senate,~~
364 ~~Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State School~~
365 ~~Superintendent, Commissioner of Insurance, Commissioner of Agriculture,~~
366 ~~Commissioner of Labor, Supreme Court Justice, Judge of the Court of Appeals, or~~
367 ~~Public Service Commissioner, provided that such selected contest is not the race at the~~
368 ~~top of the ballot.~~

369 (b) Local election superintendents shall conduct precertification risk-limiting audits ~~on~~
370 ~~selected contests~~ following any election, special election, election runoff, special election
371 runoff, primary, special primary, primary runoff, or special primary runoff with on the
372 following contests, if any such contest is on the ballot: presidential, United States Senate
373 Senator, or state-wide contests United States Representative, Governor, Lieutenant
374 Governor, Secretary of State, and Attorney General in accordance with requirements set
375 forth by rule or regulation of the State Election Board. Audits performed under this Code
376 section shall, at the discretion of the superintendent, be conducted by manual inspection
377 of random samples of the paper official ballots or all ballots cast in such election.

- 378 (c) In conducting each audit, the local election superintendents shall:
- 379 (1) Complete the audit prior to final certification of the contests;
- 380 (2) Ensure that all types of ballots are included in the audit, whether cast in person, by
- 381 absentee ballot, advance voting, provisional ballot, or otherwise;
- 382 (3) Provide a report of the unofficial final tabulated vote results for the contests to the
- 383 public prior to conducting the audit;
- 384 (4) Complete the audit in public view while also allowing the audit to be monitored by
- 385 credentialed poll watchers who are close enough to see and hear the process and view the
- 386 tally sheets; and
- 387 (5) Provide details of the audit to the public within 48 hours of completion.
- 388 ~~(d) In the event that multiple qualified races are on a ballot, one race in addition to the race~~
- 389 ~~at the top of the ballot shall be selected as a selected contest for auditing pursuant to this~~
- 390 ~~Code section. The additional selected contest shall be selected by majority vote of the~~
- 391 ~~Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the~~
- 392 ~~minority leader of the Senate, and the minority leader of the House of Representatives;~~
- 393 ~~provided, however, that, in the event that a majority vote cannot be obtained by 11:00 A.M.~~
- 394 ~~on the Thursday immediately following the election, special election, election runoff,~~
- 395 ~~special election runoff, primary, special primary, primary runoff, or special primary runoff,~~
- 396 ~~the additional selected contest shall be selected by the chairperson of the State Election~~
- 397 ~~Board. The selection vote required by this subsection does not need to occur in person;~~
- 398 ~~such vote may be accomplished telephonically, virtually, or via written or electronic~~
- 399 ~~correspondence.~~
- 400 (e) The State Election Board shall be responsible for overseeing the administration of this
- 401 Code section by election superintendents and shall be authorized to promulgate rules,
- 402 regulations, and procedures to implement and administer the provisions of this Code
- 403 section. The procedures prescribed by the State Election Board shall include security
- 404 procedures to ensure that collection of validly cast ballots is complete, accurate, and

405 trustworthy throughout the audit. The Secretary of State shall have no role in conducting,
406 overseeing, or administering the provisions of this Code section, unless requested by the
407 State Election Board.

408 ~~(f)~~(e) Nothing in this Code section shall prevent an election superintendent from
409 conducting tabulation or risk-limiting audits in additional contests if circumstances warrant
410 the auditing of one or more additional contests than those required by this Code section."

411 **SECTION 15.**

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