



General Assembly

January Session, 2003

Raised Bill No. 88

LCO No. 975

Referred to Committee on Government Administration and
Elections

Introduced by:
(GAE)

**AN ACT CONCERNING A DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOR THE
USE OF ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT FOR THE CASTING AND
COUNTING OF BALLOTS AND PROHIBITING THE USE OF PUNCH-
CARD VOTING MACHINES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Notwithstanding any provision
2 of title 9 of the general statutes, the Secretary of the State may
3 authorize, as a demonstration project, the use of electronic equipment
4 for the casting and counting of ballots at elections in 2003 and 2004 in
5 at least three towns, if sufficient numbers of electronic voting machines
6 can be acquired, provided (1) (A) the legislative body of any such town
7 or, in the case of a town in which the legislative body is a town
8 meeting, the board of selectmen, and (B) the registrars of voters of the
9 town jointly approve the use of such equipment, (2) the Secretary of
10 the State prescribes specifications for (A) the security, testing, set-up,
11 operation and canvassing of the equipment, (B) the ballots used for the
12 equipment, and (C) the training of election officials in the use of the
13 equipment, and (3) different towns are used each election year. No
14 voting machine that records votes by means of holes punched in

15 designated voting response locations may be used at any election
16 under this section.

17 (b) The Secretary of the State may use volunteers to conduct an exit
18 poll of electors concerning their experience using the voting
19 equipment. The State Elections Enforcement Commission shall survey
20 the volunteers and towns on the use of such equipment and shall
21 review the results of any exit poll. Not later than January first in the
22 year following the use of such equipment by a town, the State
23 Elections Enforcement Commission shall submit a report to the
24 Secretary of the State on the use of such equipment. Such report shall
25 include the results of the survey and any exit poll regarding elector use
26 of the electronic equipment. Not later than February first in the year
27 following the use of such equipment, the Secretary of the State shall
28 submit a summary of such report and recommendations concerning
29 the use of such equipment to the joint standing committee of the
30 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to elections in
31 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes.

32 Sec. 2. Section 9-241 of the general statutes is repealed and the
33 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

34 Any person owning or holding an interest in any voting machine, as
35 defined in subsection (w) of section 9-1, may apply to the Secretary of
36 the State to examine such machine and report on its accuracy and
37 efficiency. The Secretary of the State shall examine the machine and
38 determine whether, in [his] the Secretary's opinion, the kind of
39 machine so examined meets the requirements of section 9-242 and can
40 be used at elections, primaries and referenda [under] held pursuant to
41 this title. If the Secretary of the State determines that the machine can
42 be so used, such machine may be adopted for such use. No machine
43 not so approved shall be so used. Each application shall be
44 accompanied by a fee of one hundred dollars and the Secretary of the
45 State shall not [give his approval of] approve any machine until such
46 fee and the expenses incurred by [him] the Secretary in making the

47 examination have been paid by the person making such application.
 48 Any voting machine company [which] that has had its voting machine
 49 approved and [which] that subsequently alters such machine in any
 50 way [,] shall provide the Secretary of the State with notice of such
 51 alterations, including a description thereof and a statement of the
 52 purpose of such alterations. If any such alterations appear to materially
 53 affect the accuracy, appearance or efficiency of the machine, or modify
 54 the machine so that it can no longer be used at elections, primaries or
 55 referenda [under] held pursuant to this title, at the discretion of the
 56 Secretary of the State, the company shall submit such alterations for
 57 inspection and approval, at its own expense, before such altered
 58 machines may be used. The Secretary of the State may adopt
 59 regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 concerning
 60 examination and approval of voting machines under this section. No
 61 voting machine that records votes by means of holes punched in
 62 designated voting response locations may be approved or used at any
 63 election, primary or referendum held pursuant to this title.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>

Statement of Purpose:

To authorize the Secretary of the State to conduct a demonstration project using electronic voting equipment, and to prohibit the use of punch-card voting machines.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]