AN ACT CONCERNING THE REPORTING OF ELECTION RESULTS.

SUMMARY

This bill requires moderators, when printing the vote totals from voting tabulators immediately upon the close of the polls, for primaries, elections, and referenda, to produce an additional tabulator tape or a photocopy, digital scan, or digital photograph of the original tape. It also requires moderators, after publicly reporting the result of each election, to deliver to the head moderator the additional tape or copy for each voting tabulator. (Existing law requires delivery of the central counting moderator’s returns and all other information required by law or by the secretary of state’s instructions.)

Under the bill, the additional tabulator tape must be attached to the completed election return totals by the (1) head moderator, if absentee ballots are counted centrally or (2) moderator, if absentee ballots are counted in the respective polling places.

The bill requires the moderator, after transmitting the preliminary list of vote totals to the secretary of the state, to prepare a sealed envelope for the additional tape or copy and store the envelope in a registrar-directed secure place, as existing law requires of write-in ballots, absentee ballots, and moderators’ returns. By law, the moderator must take possession of, and break the seal on, all such envelopes at the end of the temporary canvassing interruption to complete the canvass (i.e., publicly tabulate the results).

The bill also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

COMMITTEE ACTION
Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 16 Nay 0 (03/29/2019)