

Government Administration and Elections Committee
JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1150

AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE RISK-LIMITING

Title: AUDITS WORKING GROUP.

Vote Date: 03/27/2023

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/6/2023

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Government Administration and Elections Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

To implement the recommendations of the risk-limiting audits working group, which in summary states that no earlier than fifteen days after any federal, state, or municipal election or primary, and not later than 2 days business days before the canvas of votes by the Secretary of State, Treasurer, or Town Clerk, the registrars of voters shall conduct a manual audit (or electronic audit if after January 1, 2016) of the votes recorded in not less than 5% of the respective voting districts in the state, district, or municipality.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Stephanie Thomas, Secretary of the State, State of Connecticut:](#)

This system of auditing has been considered a best practice in election administration since first being implemented in Colorado in 2009. Since then, Virginia and Rhode Island have adopted full risk-limiting audits programs, with four other states implementing optional programs offered to localities. I am confident that adopting such a program here in Connecticut would not only ensure the accuracy of our election outcomes, but also provide voters with further confidence in the accuracy of our elections.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[B. Fuller, I. Michel, A. Russell, UConn Center for Voting Technology Research:](#)

We are strong advocates of risk-limiting audits (RLAs). They provide a rigorous, but cost-effective, means for checking the veracity of an election and are designed to be transparent, so that observers can verify the audit procedure and outcomes. RLAs improve confidence in the entire tabulation process and can detect errors that might change election outcomes. Details supporting these comments are in written testimony.

Chrissa LaPorte, Senior Policy & Technical Associate, Verified Voting:

This legislation would allow for the successful implementation of RLAs in Connecticut, providing a strong basis for public confidence in election results. The bill gives the Secretary of State the time and authority to develop procedures and regulations related to RLAs, without over specifying the details in legislation. It also requires additional pilots in 2023, allowing registrars to gain additional experience with the process.

Evan Preston, Director of Advocacy, Secure Democracy USA:

A risk-limiting audit can help build confidence elections by providing the public with statistical evidence that electronically tabulated results are correct.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Timothy Carlo, Legislative Chair, Registrar of Voters Association of CT (ROVAC):

General support of the idea of this bill is offered but with concerns about some components or lack thereof in its current form. ROVAC, similar to last year when this proposal was first introduced, remains to have many questions regarding this pending legislation. We are working with the Secretary of the State's office to understand the implications that this legislation would have on local Registrars. These concerns include, but not limited to, the potential costs and possible confusion with the new procedures on local registrars, especially given the likelihood of a myriad of new changes regarding Early Voting.

Reported by: Robert Mayne

Date: 03-27-2023