

Summary -- Meeting May 18, 2005

SJR 371 (2005) HJR 174 (2004)

Joint Subcommittee to Study the Certification, Performance, and Deployment of Voting Equipment

State Board of Elections staff presented background information on the following topics:

- Use of electronic voting equipment in the 2004 election:

40 million of 121 million voters in the November 2, 2004, election voted on electronic equipment; the State Board did not receive any report of a problem with DRE (direct recording electronic) equipment in the election; and problems were reported in three Pennsylvania counties (leading to decertification of a Unilect Patriot machine (different than the Patriot used in some Virginia localities) and in one county in North Carolina and in Ohio. There may be other instances not widely reported.

- The current certification process:

19 voting systems are currently certified for use by Virginia localities, including eight DRE systems; no applications for certification are in process; and the current certification process was described to the subcommittee.

- Security measures:

the State Board has prepared its final voting systems security policy, standards, and guidelines for circulation to localities July 1 with follow-up training and workshop sessions around the Commonwealth.

- HAVA requirements and distributions of HAVA funds:

81 of 90 Virginia localities required by HAVA to replace punch card and lever equipment have done so involving \$17,608,930 in HAVA funds; 16 of 44 localities required by HAVA to provide one accessible voting unit (DRE) per precinct have done so involving \$1,734,279 in HAVA funds; total HAVA funds for voting equipment allocated to Virginia equals \$29,941,318, and 64.5% (the \$19,343,208 cited above) has been allocated to localities to date; and the final date to meet HAVA requirements is January 1, 2006.

The subcommittee viewed a tape on the use of a DRE (Sequoia Edge) system equipped with a printer to provide a voter verified paper audit trail or VVPAT capacity in Nevada in the 2004 presidential election. Members requested more information on reactions to the VVPAT experience in Nevada and information from other states that have passed legislation mandating use of VVPAT.

The subcommittee reviewed and suggested revisions in a draft work plan for three additional meetings during the 2005 interim. After review by the chair and vice chair, a revised work plan will be circulated to the subcommittee.

Chairman:

The Hon. Timothy D. Hugo

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Division of Legislative Services

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