

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 683

Introduced by Assembly Member Low

February 25, 2015

An act to amend Section 19271 of the Elections Code, relating to voting systems.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 683, as introduced, Low. Direct recording electronic voting systems.

Existing law prohibits the Secretary of State from approving, and prohibits a city or county from contracting for or purchasing, a direct recording electronic voting system, defined as a voting system that records a vote electronically and does not require or permit the voter to record his or her vote directly onto a tangible ballot. Existing law defines the term “voter verified paper audit trail” as a component of a direct recording electronic voting system that prints a contemporaneous paper record copy of each electronic ballot and allows each voter to confirm his or her selections before the voter casts his or her ballot.

This bill would revise the definition of “voter verified paper audit trail” to instead mean a component of a direct recording electronic voting system that prints a synchronous paper record facsimile of each electronic ballot and allows each voter to confirm his or her selections before the voter casts his or her ballot.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 19271 of the Elections Code is amended
2 to read:

3 19271. As used in this article:

4 (a) “Accessible” means that the information provided on the
5 paper record copy from the voter verified paper audit trail
6 mechanism is provided or conveyed to voters via both a visual and
7 a nonvisual method, such as through an audio component.

8 (b) “Direct recording electronic voting system” means a voting
9 system that records a vote electronically and does not require or
10 permit the voter to record his or her vote directly onto a tangible
11 ballot.

12 (c) “Voter verified paper audit trail” means a component of a
13 direct recording electronic voting system that prints a
14 ~~contemporaneous~~ *synchronous* paper record ~~copy~~ *facsimile* of each
15 electronic ballot and allows each voter to confirm his or her
16 selections before the voter casts his or her ballot.

17 (d) “Federal qualification” means the system has been certified,
18 if applicable, by means of qualification testing by a nationally
19 recognized test laboratory and has met or exceeded the minimum
20 requirements set forth in the Performance and Text Standards for
21 Punch Card, Mark Sense, and Direct Recording Electronic Voting
22 Systems, or in any successor voluntary standard document,
23 developed and promulgated by the Federal Election Commission,
24 the Election Assistance Commission, or the National Institute of
25 Standards and Technology.

26 (e) “Paper record copy” means an auditable document printed
27 by a voter verified paper audit trail component that corresponds
28 to the voter’s electronic vote and lists the contests on the ballot
29 and the voter’s selections for those contests. A paper record copy
30 is not a ballot.

31 (f) “Parallel monitoring” means the testing of a randomly
32 selected sampling of voting equipment on election day designed
33 to simulate actual election conditions to confirm that the system
34 is registering votes accurately.

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