

HB 773 -- Vote Counting and Election Audit Procedures

Sponsor: Entlicher

This bill specifies that the official ballot must be a paper ballot that is marked by hand or with the assistance of a ballot-marking device for disabled voters. The electronic counting of paper ballots is permissible, but voting with electronic touch-screens will be prohibited except that an election authority may continue to use the touch-screens for disabled voters until the machines are replaced with paper ballot-marking devices designed to assist disabled voters.

The bill allows a citizen's group to request access to the ballot records for review in the presence of election authorities and allows the groups to receive copies of electronic election records. Elections will not be certified until an audit of the election returns has been completed. The criteria for an audit are specified in the bill. The audit process will be open to the public, and the audio and video recording of the audit will be allowed.