

Supporting Legislation Calling For Amendment To Election Law In Relation To Enacting The "Voting Systems Standards Act"

Legislators Donaldson, Bartels, Berardi, Dart, Feldmann, Hyatt, Kraft, Lomita, Loughran, Richard Parete, Robert Parete, Provenzano, Rodriquez, Stoeckeler and Zimet offers the following:

WHEREAS, Legislation has been introduced in the New York State Assembly (A08847) which amends the election law and the state finance law, in relation to enacting the "voting systems standards act of 2003"; and to repeal certain provisions of the election law relating to voting machines, and

WHEREAS, the bill (A08847) establishes new standards for voting machines in that each voting machine will be required to produce a paper, voter verifiable audit record, and

WHEREAS, the legislation is designed to comply with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), to provide for a new, uniform voting system which will be chosen through a competitive, open process. Under the bill, such system will ensure voting is accessible to all voters and protected by safeguards against electronic vote tampering, and

WHEREAS, many states including New York State are in the process of purchasing computer voting systems that may not have a paper trail by which election officials can ascertain that the machines are properly recording votes, and

WHEREAS, voting should be an act of record and the voting system must facilitate a recount of ballots, and

WHEREAS, a recount requires that there be a reliable record to check, and

WHEREAS, the current law does not protect the integrity of our elections against computer malfunction, computer hackers, computer crashes, computer viruses, or other irregularities as indicated by errors in elections in 2002 and 2003 in which votes were misreported in New Jersey, Missouri, Georgia, Texas and other states.

RESOLVED, that the County of Ulster fully supports New York State Assembly Bill A08847 to amend election law to ensure an accurate, traceable record of votes in all future elections, and

Resolution No. 119 March 11, 2004

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FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature encourages the representatives of the County of Ulster in the New York State Legislature to endorse and co-sponsor this legislation, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to Senate Majority Leader Joseph L. Bruno, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Senator John J. Bonacic, Assemblyman Kevin A. Cahill and all representatives of Ulster County in the New York State Legislature,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: NOES:

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

NONE

Legislator Tipp motioned, seconded by Legislator Every to refer Resolution No. 119 to the General Services/Community Services Committee.

MOTION TO REFER ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 32 NOES: 0

(Absent: Legislator Hathaway)

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