

STATE OF NEW YORK

2329

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 24, 2019

Introduced by Sen. KAVANAGH -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Elections

AN ACT to amend the election law, in relation to requiring the board of elections or a bipartisan committee to conduct a risk-limiting audit of voter verifiable audit records

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 9-211 of the election law, as
2 amended by section 515 of the laws of 2015, is amended to read as
3 follows:

4 1. (a) Within fifteen days after each general or special election, and
5 within seven days after every primary or village election conducted by
6 the board of elections, the board of elections or a bipartisan committee
7 appointed by such board shall conduct a risk-limiting audit of the voter
8 verifiable audit records from ~~[three percent of]~~ the voting machines or
9 systems within the jurisdiction of such board in accordance with the
10 regulations promulgated pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section. Such
11 audits may be performed manually or via the use of any automated tool
12 authorized for such use by the state board of elections which is inde-
13 pendent from the voting system it is being used to audit. Voting
14 machines or systems shall be selected for audit through a random, manual
15 process. At least five days prior to the time fixed for such selection
16 process, the board of elections shall send notice by first class mail to
17 each candidate, political party and independent body entitled to have
18 had watchers present at the polls in any election district in such
19 board's jurisdiction. Such notice shall state the time and place fixed
20 for such random selection process. The audit shall be conducted in the
21 same manner, to the extent applicable, as a canvass of paper ballots.
22 Each candidate, political party or independent body entitled to appoint
23 watchers to attend at a polling place shall be entitled to appoint such
24 number of watchers to observe the audit.

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 (b) The state board of elections shall promulgate regulations for the
2 use of risk-limiting audits required by paragraph (a) of this section.
3 The number of voter verifiable audit records selected for such audits
4 shall be determined pursuant to such regulations that make use of
5 statistical methods and are designed to limit the risk of certifying an
6 incorrect outcome.

7 § 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall
8 have become a law and shall apply to any election held 180 days or more
9 after it shall have taken effect; provided that the state board of
10 elections is authorized to immediately adopt, amend and promulgate such
11 rules and regulations as may be necessary and desirable to effectuate
12 the purposes of this act.