

American Council of the Blind of Maryland
Legislative Committee
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February 4, 2005

Senator Paula Hollinger, Chair
Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West Wing
11 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401 - 1991

Re: Written Testimony – SB 9 Election Law-Voting Systems-Voter Verified Paper Records

Dear Senator Hollinger:

We are writing you on behalf of the American Council of the Blind of Maryland to reverse our earlier position and express our support for SB 9 Election Law-Voting Systems-Voter Verified Paper Records. Our organization now supports this bill as Senator Harris' amendment provides for accessibility by voters who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise disabled. The American Council of the Blind of Maryland is a state affiliate of the American Council of the Blind, which is the nation's leading advocacy organization for blind and visually impaired people.

The American Council of the Blind of Maryland supports improvements to the election process that promote voter confidence in the integrity of the system. As a voter verifiable paper audit trail would increase voter confidence, the American Council of the Blind of Maryland supports its adoption provided it is made accessible to voters who are blind, visually impaired, or otherwise disabled.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer this testimony and we trust that it will aid the Committee in its deliberations.

Very truly yours,

Robert A. Kerr, Chairman
ACBM Legislative Committee

cc: Albert J. Pietrolungo, President
American Council of the Blind of Maryland