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HOUSE BILL NO. 2142

Offered January 14, 2015

Prefiled January 14, 2015

A BILL to amend and reenact § 24.2-626 of the Code of Virginia, relating to voting systems; use of direct recording electronic machines.

Patron—Yancey

Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 24.2-626 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 24.2-626. Governing bodies shall acquire electronic voting and counting machines.**

A. The governing body of each county and city shall provide for the use of electronic voting or counting machines, of a kind approved by the State Board, at every precinct and for all elections held in the county, the city, or any part of the county or city.

Each county and city governing body shall purchase, lease, lease purchase, or otherwise acquire such machines and may provide for the payment therefor in the manner it deems proper. Systems of different kinds may be adopted for use and be used in different precincts of the same county or city, or within a precinct or precincts in a county or city, subject to the approval of the State Board.

B. On and after July 1, 2007, no county or city shall acquire any direct recording electronic machine (DRE) for use in elections in the county or city except as provided ~~herein~~ in this subsection:

1. DREs acquired prior to July 1, 2007, may be used in elections in the county or city for the remainder of their useful life.

2. Any locality that acquired DREs prior to July 1, 2007, may acquire DREs on a temporary basis to conduct an election when the existing DRE inventory is insufficient to conduct the election because all or part of its inventory is under lock or seal as required by § 24.2-659.

3. Any locality may acquire DREs from another locality within the Commonwealth, from among their existing inventories, for the ~~expressed~~ express purpose of providing accessible voting equipment as required by § 24.2-626.1. The local electoral board shall notify the State Board when acquiring any DRE under this provision and shall certify to the State Board that the DRE acquired under this provision is necessary to meet accessible voting requirements.

4. Any locality may modify its existing DREs to comply with federal or state law requirements to provide accessible voting equipment. Any modifications made to existing DREs must be authorized by the State Board of Elections prior to modification.

C. On and after July 1, 2016, no county or city shall use any direct recording electronic machine (DRE) in elections in the county or city except as provided in this subsection:

1. DREs acquired prior to July 1, 2016, shall be used only for the express purpose of providing accessible voting equipment as required by § 24.2-626.1. The local electoral board shall notify the State Board when using any DRE under this provision and shall certify to the State Board that the DRE used under this provision is necessary to meet accessible voting requirements.

2. Any locality may modify its existing DREs to comply with federal or state law requirements to provide accessible voting equipment. Any modifications made to existing DREs must be authorized by the State Board prior to modification.

INTRODUCED

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