

DANIEL L. COX
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Frederick and Carroll Counties

Judiciary Committee

Subcommittees

Civil Law and Procedure
Family and Juvenile Law

Task Force to Study Crime
Classification and Penalties



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 2, 2021

**Favorable Testimony for HB 1165, Election Law – Manual Postelection Tabulation Audit
– Timing and Effect**

Dear Chair Kaiser, Vice-Chair Washington and Committee Members:

House Bill 1165 moves the date of the manual audit from 120 days after the general election to a time before the certification of the election. This change in election law, although minor, will give the citizens of Maryland a greater degree of confidence in our election results.

Current law requires manual election audits; however, in the counties (Frederick and Carroll) I represent these audits did not occur until after the New Year... Frederick on February 16 and Carroll on January 27. Both notices read that the board “will manually tally a sample of votes for the Office of President and Vice-President and compare the results of the manual tally against the results from the voting system. The process will determine whether the voting system accurately counted ballots during the 2020 General Election.” I think we can all agree that this would be useful information to have before our elections are certified.

While I understand that Madam Chair’s House Bill 1278 which became law (Election Law Article, 11-309 Chapter 523) was the first step in instituting a manual audit process and it “was not [to] have any effect on the certified election results but must be used to improve the voting system and voting process for future elections,” I believe that we should conduct meaningful audits after both the primary and general elections. As you may recall, Professor Poorvi Vora, Professor, Department of Computer Science at George Washington University, and Lynn Garland co-author of “Principles and Best Practices of Post-Election Audits and Marian Schneider, the then President of Verifiedvoting.org testified in favor HB 1278 but each stated that part of the law that needed to be addressed is the failure of not conducting the manual audit before the certification of the election results.

I wholeheartedly agree with the Chair’s testimony on HB 1278, “Nothing matters more to our democracy than free and fair elections and, ultimately, we must take steps to ensure that people have the utmost confidence in our elections.” I ask for a favorable report on H.B. 1165.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D. Cox'.

Daniel L. Cox