

House Bill 976

By: Representatives LaHood of the 175th, Anderson of the 10th, Leverett of the 123rd,
Blackmon of the 146th, Jones of the 25th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 primaries and elections generally, so as to provide that ballots used in optical scan voting
3 systems shall use paper with a visible watermark security feature; to provide that ballots used
4 in ballot marking devices shall use paper with a visible watermark security feature; to
5 provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to primaries and
9 elections generally, is amended by revising Code Section 21-2-372, relating to ballot
10 descriptions, as follows:

11 "21-2-372.

12 Ballots shall be of suitable design, size, and stock to permit processing by a ballot scanner
13 and shall be printed in black ink on clear, white, or colored material. Other than ballots
14 delivered electronically to qualified electors who are entitled to vote by absentee ballot
15 under the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, 52 U.S.C.
16 Section 20301, et seq., the ballots shall be printed on security paper that incorporates

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17 features which can be used to authenticate the ballot as an official ballot but which do not
18 make the ballot identifiable to a particular elector, provided that at least one such feature
19 is a visible watermark that identifies the ballot as an official Georgia ballot."

20

SECTION 2.

21 Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 21-2-379.23, relating to requirements for
22 ballot display, role of Secretary of State, and printed paper ballot controls during recount, by
23 revising subsection (b) as follows:

24 "(b) The form and arrangement of ballots marked and printed by an electronic ballot
25 marker shall be prescribed by the Secretary of State; provided, however, that such ballots
26 shall be printed on security paper that incorporates features which can be used to
27 authenticate the ballot as an official ballot but which do not make the ballot identifiable to
28 a particular elector; provided, further, that at least one such feature is a visible watermark
29 that identifies the ballot as an official Georgia ballot."

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SECTION 3.

31 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.