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*From the Office of Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz*

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**SECRETARY OF STATE BYSIEWICZ' STATEMENT ON  
FINAL PASSAGE OF VOTER-VERIFIED PAPER RECEIPTS**

The following is a statement from Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz on today's final passage by the state House of Representatives of a bill requiring the use of voter-verified paper receipts on new electronic voting machines that will be purchased to comply with the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA):

“As Secretary of the State, there is nothing more important to me than providing voters with the highest level of confidence that elections in our state are accurate, fair, and secure. Today's final passage of legislation requiring voter-verified paper receipts on all new electronic voting machines will ensure that voting machines record votes accurately and that voters will have the confidence that their vote is accurately cast and counted.

I am proud to have worked with the Chairs of the Government Administration and Elections Committee to craft a bill that not only will ensure voter confidence in our new voting equipment, but will also provide additional layers of protection against voter fraud. Under the legislation passed today, the voter-verified paper receipt will serve as a final check for voters and also be used after elections in random audits to ensure the integrity of the machines.

This legislation will not affect our timetable for selecting a new electronic voting machine. In anticipation of legislative approval of voter-verified paper receipts, we included a provision in our Request for Proposals (RFP) for new voting equipment, issued in December, which requires each vendor to have the ability to fit their machines with voter-verified paper receipts.

We are currently in the process of reviewing the RFP responses. Our intention is to take each of the qualifying machines on the road during the beginning of October to each Congressional district so that the general public and local election officials can try each machine. Input that we receive from those tests will be factored into my Office's final decision on Connecticut's choice of new voting equipment. This will be the first time in Connecticut history that public input is factored into the awarding of a contract. The new machines will be purchased in time to meet the January 1, 2006 deadline set by HAVA.”