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- NEWS RELEASE -

SECRETARY OF THE STATE BYSIEWICZ APPLAUDS
SENATE'S APPROVAL OF ELECTION AUDIT BILL

STATE ONE STEP CLOSER TO BECOMING NATIONAL LEADER IN
ELECTION INTEGRITY

HARTFORD: The State Senate has passed a measure, first proposed by Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz, which will make Connecticut a national leader for verifying election results. The bill now goes to the State House of Representatives for approval.

S.B. No. 1311 requires Connecticut to conduct random audits of 10% of all polling districts in future statewide elections. Once signed into law, Connecticut will be the only state in New England and one of only 13 across the nation to require audits.

“This legislation allows Connecticut to lead the way in the establishment of audit procedures for optical scan voting machines,” said Bysiewicz “I am proud to say, we have received strong support from a wide range of organizations such as the University of Connecticut, the League of Women Voters of Connecticut, and our local election officials who are all committed

to the election process being free from fraud. This would not have been possible without the hard work of our State Senate Leadership and Senator Gayle Slossberg.”

Under the bill, the voting districts will be chosen at random and all audits would consist of hand counts, conducted in public by local Registrars of Voters. If the manual hand counts cannot be reconciled with the machine count, the Secretary of the State will order additional investigation or order a full recount of the office or a partial recount of the remaining district.

“Having the right technology in place is just one part of the equation if we are to maintain integrity in the voting process,” said Secretary Bysiewicz. “This new legislation ensures that regular and thorough audits are conducted and that voters can have the highest confidence that their vote is being counted.”

Currently, the U.S. Congress is considering the Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2007 (Holt Bill) – which includes an audit provision. If adopted, audits would be required for all federal offices on the ballot. Audits would include all ballots (machine counted, absentee ballots, overseas ballots and provisional ballots) and the number would be based on a formula: (1) If margin of victory is less than 1%, then 10% of total precincts will be audited. (2) If margin of victory is 1-2%, then 5% of total precincts will be audited. (3) If margin of victory is greater than 2% then 3% of total precincts will be audited.

The Holt Bill also applies to optical scan machines and requires any machine used have a voter verified paper record, which in the case of an optical scanner is the actual ballot.

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