

1 AN ACT concerning voting technology.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Accessible Voting Technology for the Blind Act of 2004.

6 Section 5. Definitions. As used in this Act:

7 "Access" means all of the following:

8 (1) The ability to retrieve all of the information
9 contained in the ballot.

10 (2) The ability to retrieve any instructional
11 information necessary for the effective casting of the
12 ballot, in the form of audible prompts, online help,
13 recorded materials, knowledgeable officials, or other
14 appropriate methods.

15 (3) The ability to make and verify all selections
16 contained in the ballot, including write in selections.

17 (4) The ability to move freely through all the
18 information contained in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3),
19 including, but not limited to, the ability to move both
20 forward and backward through all items and the ability to
21 skip items.

22 "Privacy" means the same level of secrecy of the ballot and
23 voting process which is accorded to all voters, using visual
24 and nonvisual means.

25 "Nonvisual" means methods of retrieving information, such
26 as synthesized speech, Braille, or other methods, that do not
27 require sight.

28 Section 10. Requirements for accessible voting technology
29 and systems.

30 (a) The State Board of Elections shall require (by
31 certification or otherwise) that the voting technology and

1 systems used by the State or any political subdivision provide
2 blind and visually impaired individuals with access and
3 privacy, which is equivalent to that provided to individuals
4 who are not blind or visually impaired, including the ability
5 for the voter to cast and verify all selections made by both
6 visual and nonvisual means.

7 (b) In requiring nonvisual access and determining
8 appropriate methods and systems for providing it pursuant to
9 subsection (a), the State Board of Elections shall obtain
10 recommendations from representatives of blind consumer
11 organizations, experts in accessible software and hardware
12 design, and any other individual or organization the Board
13 determines to be appropriate.

14 Section 15. Technology and systems compliance.

15 (a) Compliance with this Act in regard to voting technology
16 and systems purchased prior to the effective date of this Act
17 shall be achieved at the time of procurement of an upgrade or
18 replacement of the existing equipment or systems.

19 (b) Voting technology and systems purchased after the
20 effective date of this Act must meet or exceed the standards
21 set by the Federal Elections Commission on April 30, 2002.

22 Section 20. Compliance with federal law; rule making
23 authority. The State Board of Elections shall promulgate any
24 rules necessary for the implementation of this Act, provided
25 that the rules comport with the Help America Vote Act of 2002,
26 P.L. 107-252, in all relevant respects and that recommendations
27 from representatives of consumer organizations of the blind
28 shall be considered.

29 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
30 becoming law.