

Donna Sweaney  
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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Janet Ancel <[janetancel@earthlink.net](mailto:janetancel@earthlink.net)>  
**Date:** March 31, 2014 at 6:26:57 PM EDT  
**To:** Donna Sweaney <[sweaneybal@aol.com](mailto:sweaneybal@aol.com)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: S.86 - elections bill

Donna, I assume you;re aware of this?  
Janet

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Jim Hogue" <[jimhogue@myfairpoint.net](mailto:jimhogue@myfairpoint.net)>  
**Date:** March 31, 2014 6:12:51 PM EDT  
**To:** [janetancel@earthlink.net](mailto:janetancel@earthlink.net), Cynthia Johnson  
<[cynthiajohnson@myfairpoint.net](mailto:cynthiajohnson@myfairpoint.net)>,  
[jeremy@vermontelection.org](mailto:jeremy@vermontelection.org)  
**Cc:** [gary@solarbus.org](mailto:gary@solarbus.org)  
**Subject:** Fwd: S.86 - elections bill

Hi Janet,

Here are some thoughts from Thomas Weiss about S 86 coming your way.  
There is an optical scanner on the market that can do recounts. It is not programmed by LHS. It is obvious that the memory card for a scanner doing a recount must not be programmed by LHS, as the result will be the same no matter how wrong it might be. That scanner can recount ballots at the time of the election at no extra cost as well. All this is decribed on the radio program I did with Ion Sancho, Director of elections in Tallahasee, Florida. It's posted at [www.wgdr.org](http://www.wgdr.org).

Jim

----- Forwarded message from Thomas Weiss <[tweiss@together.net](mailto:tweiss@together.net)> -----

Date: Mon, 31 Mar 2014 11:34:05 -0500  
From: Thomas Weiss <[tweiss@together.net](mailto:tweiss@together.net)>  
Reply-To: Thomas Weiss <[tweiss@together.net](mailto:tweiss@together.net)>  
Subject: S.86 - elections bill  
To: Jim Hogue <[jimhogue@myfairpoint.net](mailto:jimhogue@myfairpoint.net)>

Hi Jim,

Here are my thoughts on S.86, the elections bill. I did not actually send anything to my representatives; I talked with them instead. The bill is up for action on the house floor tomorrow, April 1, and is printed in the House Calendar for April 1..

Two portions of the bill as it is up for action in the house are of major concern to me.

Section 27 has a number of changes on use of vote tabulators and differs from the version passed by the senate last year. The senate version will leave the decision to use vote tabulators with the voters of a town. The house version will take that decision away from the voters in all cases. If the municipality has 1,000 or more registered voters, the municipality will be required to use vote tabulators. If the municipality has fewer registered voters, the decision on using vote tabulators will be given to the Board of Civil Authority in each town.

Sections 41 and 42 of the bill will require that all recounts in primary and general elections be done by vote tabulator, even where the original count is done by people and there is no memory card for that town. (Currently, the person requesting a recount has the option of having people recount or tabulators recount in those towns using vote tabulators. In towns where people count the ballots, the recounts will be done by people, too.) I consider this to be premature.

Requiring recounts by tabulator in all towns is premature because:

- there is no process for getting memory cards for those towns where people count votes
- there is not yet a process for auditing recounts by tabulator
- towns that do not want tabulators will be required to have the important recount done by tabulators.

Section 28 of the bill will require the Secretary of State to prepare a report on these and other issues with the use of vote tabulators. The report will be due January 15, 2015. If the effective date of sections 41 and 42 be delayed (using section 73) until after the end of the 2015 session, that will give time for the general assembly to act on the report before requiring recounts by tabulator.

Thomas

----- End forwarded message -----

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<http://www.metropolistv.nl/?lang=en&p=1492>

More at Jim Hogue's blog at <http://www.vtcommons.org>