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## Georgia House Poised to Pass New Unsecure Voting System Bill

ATLANTA, GA. MARCH 24, 2026 – The Georgia House of Representatives altered a Senate [election bill](#) last week to extend use of Quick Response (QR) coded ballots generated by Ballot Marking Devices (BMD) for the 2026 General Election. The original [SB214](#) that had passed the Senate and crossed over to a House Committee required use of hand marked paper ballots similar to absentee mail-in ballots for in person voting. However, the House Government Affairs Committee [substitute bill](#) **delays replacement of QR coded ballots until 2028**. The inventor the Risk Limiting Audit (RLA) used by Georgia has testified in court and [written to Georgia officials since 2018](#) that RLAs cannot effectively audit BMD systems. BMDs offer no original source of voter intent and there is no way to audit whether or not they displayed races correctly to the voter.

Ballots produced by Georgia's Dominion Democracy Suite 5.5 voting system have **QR codes that contain the votes for tabulated results**. In October 2020, a U.S. District Court found the system in violation of two Georgia statutes requiring voter verifiability and human readable text. [\[Pg 81-82\]](#) After Secretary of State (SOS) Brad Raffensperger did not address the issue, the General Assembly passed a more explicit statute in 2024 to ban QR code voting no later than July 1, 2026. [\[O.C.G.A. 21-2-379.23\]](#) QR code vote tabulation also conflicts with a voter verifiability statute in the 2002 Help America Vote Act. [\[Title3 Sec.301\(1\)\(A\)\(i\)\]](#) In fact, President Trump signed [Executive Order 14248](#) in March 2025 ordering the U.S. Election Assistance Committee to ban QR code vote tabulation. Yet the House now proposes that Georgians continue to use a QR coded system for 2026 elections.

The House committee **ignored recommendations of its own [Elections Study Committee](#)** to hand count the verifiable text of all 2026 QR coded election ballots to ensure security and accuracy. It also ignored [VoterGA voting system security recommendations](#) submitted to the study committee on November 24, 2025. The House reversed itself after objections from the Georgia Association of Voter Registration and Election Officials ([GAVREO](#)) which claims to represent county election directors. A VoterGA survey identified that only about **a dozen of 159 counties confirmed support of GAVREO's position**. GAVREO offered no solution and argued it was too late for 2026 General Election changes. However, in 2002, Georgia moved from disparate systems to a paperless, unverifiable Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) system in six months after signing a May 3 [contract](#). A U.S. District Court found that DRE system was constitutionally deficient in 2019. [\[Pg 70\]](#)

But perhaps more importantly, the SB214 substitute bill version authorizes the purchase of a new unsecure voting system that **allows existing security threats to continue indefinitely**. In spite of the known security issues, the House substitute bill **authorizes funds for the purchase of a new, foreign made proprietary voting system that can be remotely accessed**. It does **not** mandate compliance with U.S. critical infrastructure guidelines. SB214 offers Ballot on Demand printing as an option to replace BMDs but it has no requirement for ballot identifiers to help detect fraudulent duplication of any type of ballot. It also does not allow for adequate emergency ballots in Election Day precincts if BODs fail as they did in Arizona in 2022.

VoterGA co-founder Garland Favorito said: *"The Secretary of State failed at his job. Then, SB214 was transformed from a voter bill to a vendor bill"*. SB214 is now in the House Rules Committee where it can still be improved to add critical security provisions. Once the bill passes the House, it will return to the Senate where they will have a chance to disagree and add sorely needed measures to secure future Georgia elections.

[VoterGA](#) is a non-partisan, 501(c)3 registered non-profit organization created by a coalition of citizens working to restore election integrity in Georgia. We advocate for independently verifiable, auditable, recount capable, transparent and tamper proof elections.