Title: Authorizes the state board of elections to reject the use of voting machines or systems on the grounds that such machines or systems are not proper, safe, or secure.

Statement of Support: This bill would eliminate the mandatory certification by the State Board of Elections of voting machines and systems that meet statutory technical requirements. The State Board of Elections would acquire the authority to certify or decertify electronic voting machines, without penalty, if they find that the voting machines may not be safe or secure.

The threat of computerized intrusion into the machines that we rely on for free, fair, and democratic elections is real and requires us to take precautions to protect the bedrock of our republic and all our other rights as Americans - our right to vote.

The statutory requirements we have in place cannot keep pace with technological changes and cyber security threats. This bill will amend the election law to give the State Board of Elections the necessary flexibility and discretion to meet these changes and threats, and to protect our elections.

New Yorkers are aware that we need to take impactful steps toward protecting our environment, both now and in the future. It is crucial that New Yorkers have confidence that our voting system accurately and faithfully represents the voice of voters, and that it does not fall victim to the antagonistic actions of hackers. People and companies that are wealthy and influential enough to keep hidden their assaults on the environment, from evading pollution standards to failing to disclose toxic ingredients in products, are likely also powerful enough to possess the resources necessary to hack an election.

Elected officials play a significant role in determining important decisions made regarding our air, water, and natural places, so it is critical that the candidate chosen by the people is rightfully elected and that the voting machines counting ballots be proper, safe, and secure. The Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter agrees with the purpose of this bill which gives the BOE authority to certify or decertify electronic voting machines, if they find that the voting machines may not be safe or secure.

The Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter Urges Your Support of A.829-A/S.6211