what you as a legislative body have given us, the
mandates and directions you have given us. We use
that time then to start implementing, plugging in.

One of the other things we do is what is
the process and -- what is the actual process and then
what are the rights of the voters. So based on that,
it seems very plausible that we would be able to take
the directives of this bill or any bill that you as a
legislature provide and fit it into that formula and
meet HAVA requirements for what we are mandated to do
in terms of educating our voters.

SEN. DAVIS: And in the past when you've
implemented a program like that, and I gather from
what you're saying you've engaged in exactly this kind
of --

MR. SHORTER: Yes, ma'am.

SEN. DAVIS: -- education effort before,
what would the cost be in a typical election cycle for
you to administer that program?

MR. SHORTER: Last year we -- last
year -- the last election cycle was $3 million.

SEN. DAVIS: It was $3 million. And
that's $3 million educating a voter group that has for
many years been operating under the same rules
repeatedly. Correct?
MR. SHORTER: Yes, if there were -- I came to the agency during the middle of that process. If there were legislative changes during the last legislative cycle, those changes were intertwined into the voter education process. I'm not -- I'll have to go back and ask what changes were made during the last legislative session that would have affected how we rolled out this particular -- last year's initiative.

For instance, within all of that, there's also the Project Vote where we start -- the education process of educating voters starts also at the age of educating our school-aged kids. 1.1 million people -- 1.1 million students in over 300 school districts last year participated in Project Vote. So those were some extra things that we've always done even with legislation like this we will still be able to do because we have it down to a science now on how to do it, and we've been able to bring those costs down.

SEN. DAVIS: And now that you have it down to a science and in the last election cycle given that you have it down to a science, you've spent, you said, about $3 million on the program. Could you anticipate a scenario where with a new voter ID requirement, one that is, well, quite lengthy in terms
of the amount of paper that it this takes up on the
bill that's been proposed, could you anticipate given
the need to educate on so many new features of a voter
program that it might cost you more than $3 million to
educate Texans on that program?

MR. SHORTER: Senator, based on past
precedent, I think it will be highly unlikely that the
expenses would increase that much because many of the
things that this bill is requiring us to do we're
already doing it on legislation that has existed for a
long time.

When we have a poll -- when we have the
poll worker training or the training for Election
Officials, it's very detailed information, and there
are little tweaks that the legislature makes, and
these are not 30-minute trainings. These are
generally two- to three-day trainings. So it's not
like if we -- if this bill were implemented the
training needs would be -- or the training modules
that will be developed would be any different than the
modules that we are already developing because the
ones we're developing now are pretty extensive.

SEN. DAVIS: And did the $3 million
figure that you -- that you cited a moment ago on your
voter outreach program in the last election cycle, did
that include the costs of training poll workers on whatever tweaks came in the last legislative session?

MR. SHORTER: It is my understanding that it did, but, Senator, I don't mind verifying that for you to make sure that it's all-inclusive.

SEN. DAVIES: I would appreciate that.

And if you could provide us with information in terms of exactly what that poll training looked like, the poll worker training looked like, I would appreciate that.

MR. SHORTER: Senator, we're very excited about our poll worker training because we have two aspects: It can be done in person, but we also have poll worker training now that can be done online. And one of the things we're really trying to do -- and with the hope of encouraging more people to volunteer or sign up to be poll workers.

SEN. DAVIES: Would you anticipate that a bill suggesting the changes of this magnitude might be a more complex training program -- that might require a more complex training program than you've had to engage in in the past where the legislature may have tweaked, to use your word, the voter requirements?

MR. SHORTER: And maybe, Senator, using the word "tweaked" was not probably the appropriate
word to use. I don't see anything at this point that
would cause me as the operations person within the
agency to be alarmed.

SEN. DAVIS: Okay. Thank you. I
appreciate it.

SEN. DUNCAN: All right. Thank you,
Sen. Davis. There are no other members in the queue
to ask questions. So, Mr. Shorter, you are excused.
Thank you for your testimony.

MR. SHORTER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

TESTIMONY BY DENNIS BOREL

SEN. DUNCAN: The Chair calls Dennis
Borel. Mr. Borel, do you have written testimony?

MR. BOREL: (Inaudible)

SEN. DUNCAN: Do you have pictures for
us? All right. We'll need to get those marked at the
right time.

MR. BOREL: Good morning. My name is
Dennis Borel with the Coalition of Texans with
Disabilities. Yes, I am from the Texas --

SEN. DUNCAN: Hang on just a minute.

MR. BOREL: Sure.

SEN. DUNCAN: We need to get your timer
started.

MR. BOREL: Okay.