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AND VOTER FRAUD HEARING
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Transcribed by Rhonda Howard, CSR
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JOHN WOODS: Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN BONNEN: Ann McGeehan, the Elections Division of the Secretary of State, testifying neutral on Committee Substitute to Senate Bill 14.

ANN MCGEEHAN: Good afternoon. Ann McGeehan with the Office of the Texas Secretary of State.

CHAIRMAN BONNEN: Questions, Members? I think Mr. Veasey has questions.

REPRESENTATIVE VEASEY: I -- I -- I -- I'm sorry. Let me turn on the microphone. I do have questions for you.

I was concerned about the fiscal note. Can you talk a little bit about the fiscal note that you all came up with? Because other smaller states, states that are significantly smaller with -- than ours, with a lot less television markets, came up with much higher figures than you did. So that -- that number sort of startled me a little bit.

ANN MCGEEHAN: Sure. Yeah. I would be happy to explain how we arrived at that figure.

Since the Help America Vote Act passed at the federal level in 2002, the states have been given some funds for voter education. So the
Secretary of State’s office has done a statewide voter education effort in 2006, eight and ten. And the average cost for those statewide voter education efforts has been 2.5 million dollars. So I can tell you that for the 2010 cycle what we did was we spent $2.5 million, and it included upgrades to our website. We created a new website called VoteTX.org, or actually redesigned it. It had been created previously. We did traditional advertising in television, did some PSAs in television, radio newspaper, experimented a little bit on the Internet with Facebook and Twitter, and also did some ads on public transportation.

We did seven telethons in -- in the Valley, Austin, Dallas and Houston, four on Spanish T.V. stations and three on English. And then we also did a face-to-face outreach where we traveled to 23 cities around the State and interacted personally with more than 15,000 Texans. So that’s what -- that’s kind of the model of what we’ve done.

So when we were asked to prepare a fiscal note, we looked at our past voter education efforts. We also looked at in 2009, when the Senate passed a voter I.D. bill that contained, I think, almost the same language as what’s in the current Committee
Substitute, Senate Finance put a rider on the bill for $2 million, which to us indicated that that at least -- at least on the Senate side, that's what they thought was appropriate for the voter education program.

REPRESENTATIVE VEASEY: What was -- what was their methodology? I'm sorry --

ANN MCGEEHAN: The Senate's?

REPRESENTATIVE VEASEY: -- for arriving at that figure?

ANN MCGEEHAN: I don't know.

REPRESENTATIVE VEASEY: Did they -- did they share any with you?

ANN MCGEEHAN: Not with me.

REPRESENTATIVE VEASEY: The -- it's just a number they -- they put out there?

ANN MCGEEHAN: Yes, I don't know how they arrived at that number.

REPRESENTATIVE VEASEY: Okay. Yeah. Because I -- in Missouri it looks like the bill cost a lot more than in Texas, and they have -- you know, their biggest market was No. 20th. And of course Dallas/Fort Worth is No. 5, and Houston is No. 7, San Antonio, 30, Austin, 42, El Paso, 46. How -- how many -- how many television ads in the Metroplex
could you buy with $750,000?

ANN MCGEEHAN: Well, I know in
two-point -- I'm sorry, in 2010 we spent 1.8 million
just on purchasing the advertising.

REPRESENTATIVE VEASEY: Okay.

ANN MCGEEHAN: So I'm sure we could
get you the breakdown to show how much in each media
market, but the bulk was spent on purchasing the
advertising.

REPRESENTATIVE VEASEY: Purchasing
all forms of advertising?

ANN MCGEEHAN: Yeah. That included
T.V., radio --

REPRESENTATIVE VEASEY: Yeah.

ANN MCGEEHAN: -- and newspaper.

REPRESENTATIVE VEASEY: Do you know
how many spots you all were running like in the
Metroplex?

ANN MCGEEHAN: We can get you the
detail on that, because I know the company we
contracted with I think gave us a detailed report of
exactly where it was aired and if we got any
earned -- earned media, things like that. We can
get you that.

REPRESENTATIVE VEASEY: Okay.
CHAIRMAN BONNEN: Representative

Anchia.

REPRESENTATIVE ANCHIA: Mr. Chairman,

I wanted to dovetail on a question -- the line of
questioning of Representative Veasey.

Again, Missouri had a two-year,
$9.5 million estimate for their voter I.D. bill in
2006, including the cost of free I.D.s, poll worker
training and the production of -- of voter education
material. Missouri is a state one-fourth the size
of Texas. Wisconsin, that has a population less
than one-point -- 5.6 million people, less than
one-fourth the size of the State of Texas, had an
annual fiscal note on their bill of 2.3 million. So
biannual, it would be 4.6 in lost revenue due to the
provision of free I.D.s.

Maryland has a population of 5.6 million
where they provide free I.D.s only in limited
circumstances, projecting a $1.6 million annual
fiscal note. In 2010, Indiana, which was later --
which was after -- after the initial passage of the
bill, which was required to provide free I.D.s, they
have a population of 6.4 million, about a quarter of
the size of the State of Texas. They spent 1.3
million to provide free I.D.s.
In that $2 million figure, do you have any -- do you have any -- any data on the provision of free I.D.s, or is it exclusively your marketing budget?

ANN MCGEEHAN: 2 million was exclusively for the voter education effort.

UNIDENTIFIED REPRESENTATIVE: Okay.

ANN MCGEEHAN: And as far as the other states and -- like Missouri, I know that we -- we tried to get a little information, because Senator Gallegos asked that question at the Senate hearing.

UNIDENTIFIED REPRESENTATIVE: Right.

ANN MCGEEHAN: And one thing that was different about their bill, which I think was later struck down -- I don't think they ever implemented the 2006 legislation --

UNIDENTIFIED REPRESENTATIVE: Uh-huh.

ANN MCGEEHAN: -- was that they were actually having to install equipment throughout the State to issue photo I.D.s for purposes of the legislation, which is not in this bill.

So I -- I don't know about Wisconsin and Maryland. You know, each -- it depends on what the bill says.
UNIDENTIFIED REPRESENTATIVE: I'll talk a little bit about the media markets in Missouri. St. Louis and Kansas City are the two largest. They spent significantly more in marketing. You're basing -- same -- same thing with other states.

You're -- you're -- you're basing your estimate on T.V. commercials, print and I guess some radio, $300,000 worth of radio on a -- an estimate that -- of last year's expenditure, I guess, or a prior year's expenditure with a significant change if this bill passed. Would you agree it's a pretty significant change to current law?

ANN MCGEEHAN: Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED REPRESENTATIVE: Okay. Do you think -- do you think that the same -- the same budget that you would use last time around with no significant change in state law would be appropriate for a voter education program with a significant change in state law?

ANN MCGEEHAN: Well, it's -- and I'll try to state this clearly, because I don't know that I explained it so well on the Senate side. But we do have plans, I guess, to have continuing voter education programs, because we still have HABA
funds. So when we were asked to prepare this fiscal
note, we were assuming we’re going to continue to do
our statewide education effort. So we looked at how
do we weave in the new voter I.D. requirements into
a statewide voter education program. So I can’t
tell you exactly what that’s going to end up being,
but if we’re just asked for purposes of this fiscal
note to say what does it cost to educate on voter
I.D., that was our best guess, because we -- we will
integrate it with, you know, whatever voter
education program we do for 2012. So if we do
2.5 million effort in 2012, you know, some of that
will cover voter education, maybe will go to a
little higher than that. But I guess the point is
we have federal dollars to educate voters on the
process to vote and get registered. And so we will
incorporate and enhance it to include education on
the new voter I.D. requirements.

UNIDENTIFIED REPRESENTATIVE: And
would that -- would that education occur over a
year, two years? Would it be ongoing? The bill --
the bill doesn't specify. What's -- what's your
view and what do the HABA dollars come in?

ANN McGEEHAN: The -- the bill I
think says that we have to start preparing the
training and the voter education as soon as possible. Our fiscal note assumes that it would just be for one cycle, so I think we put it all for the 2012 fiscal year.

We have $7 million left in the State Treasury that's earmarked for voter education and poll worker training, election official training.

UNIDENTIFIED REPRESENTATIVE: Those are HABA funds?

ANN MCGEEHAN: Those are the HABA funds, and they don't expire. I don't think the federal government can take them back, but we are hearing that they're not -- they don't have any plans to issue any more funds. So, essentially, that's all we've got.

UNIDENTIFIED REPRESENTATIVE: In the new -- on the significant change in legislation for one election cycle, essentially for the 2012 election cycle?

ANN MCGEEHAN: Well, based on the language that's in the bill.

UNIDENTIFIED REPRESENTATIVE: Based on language that's in the bill?

ANN MCGEEHAN: Right.

UNIDENTIFIED REPRESENTATIVE: Okay.
How -- for major changes in legislation -- well, let me back up a step.

What's your evaluation of poll worker training currently in the -- in the counties?

ANN McGEEHAN: In the counties? I think that there are a variety of tools counties can use to educate poll workers. We -- with our HABA dollars, we created an online poll worker training that's free for all counties to use. Some counties have used their HABA funds to create their own specific online training. Most counties do some form of in-person training, where they require workers to come in, you know, see the machines, learn how to operate the machines. We, the Secretary of State's office, has a 30-minute video that we do, and we update usually every two years. That's also free of charge. So there's some different ways.

UNIDENTIFIED REPRESENTATIVE: You answered a different question, though.

ANN McGEEHAN: Oh.

UNIDENTIFIED REPRESENTATIVE: You answered what resources are available, which I appreciate. But what's your -- what's your assessment of the quality of poll worker training?
And I know it's difficult to get poll workers.
There's turnover frequently. We pay them very little. I believe that they're volunteers.

When you have a -- a change in the Election Code, just a minor change, by way of example, it doesn't immediately filter down to all poll workers, does it? I mean, ensuring practice and implementation, it's something that takes time?

ANN MCGEEHAN: Sure.

UNIDENTIFIED REPRESENTATIVE: Isn't that right?

ANN MCGEEHAN: That's right.

UNIDENTIFIED REPRESENTATIVE: I mean, because I hear from poll workers all the time and, you know, they didn't know the law had changed. I tried to do some continuing education myself, having sat on the Elections Committee in the past, to bring people up to speed. And I'm always very impressed at how earnest the poll workers are, but also sometimes very surprised -- you know, they're not Election Code experts and it does take some time for changes in the Election Code to filter down to them.

For a change of this magnitude, do you think it will take some time for folks to be aware of the law?
ANN MCGEEHAN: I think it will take some time. I think the bill has some very strict requirements in there, though, that requires all judges and clerks to take the Secretary of State-prescribed training. So it -- it sounds to me like it's a mandate that they have to take that training, whereas right now in many elections it's optional.

UNIDENTIFIED REPRESENTATIVE: How much is that going to cost for everybody to take the training?

ANN MCGEEHAN: Our plans will be to update our video and to update the online training. So that would be two free for, you know, counties to use and for citizens to use on top of whatever the counties may be using, as well.

UNIDENTIFIED REPRESENTATIVE: Do you think with a mandate like that, would that mandate be satisfied by watching the video?

ANN MCGEEHAN: I think it could be. Currently, that is used for poll worker training.

UNIDENTIFIED REPRESENTATIVE: Uh-huh. So that would be enough?

ANN MCGEEHAN: Unless the statute is changed. But as currently written, I think that
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would satisfy the bill.

UNIDENTIFIED REPRESENTATIVE: Okay.

Does it surprise you that people -- that poll
workers are already asking for photo I.D. despite
the training that occurs? Does that surprise you?

ANN MCGEEHAN: We have heard that
before, yes.

UNIDENTIFIED REPRESENTATIVE: Quite a
bit. Even in the district that I represent we've
got folks that are asking for photo I.D. currently.

A lot of people have been talking about a
600,000 registered voter figure. These people --
these are people who apparently registered without
using some form -- either their Social Security
number or a -- a driver's license number.

Isn't the use even bigger than that? I
mean, I see a figure here that for people who did
not register without a driver's license number --
pardon me, for people who registered without their
driver's license ensuring the figure is more like
2.8 million.

ANN MCGEEHAN: That's true when you
look at the entire voter database.

UNIDENTIFIED REPRESENTATIVE: This is
your HABA-compliant database.
ANN MCGEEHAN: Right. But, you know, prior to January 1, 2006, you could register to vote without providing your driver's license or Social Security number. So people that were registered before 2006 may not have provided one of those. That doesn't necessarily mean that they don't have one, but they didn't have to provide one to get registered to vote.

UNIDENTIFIED REPRESENTATIVE: Well, we don't know whether they did or not, because it wasn't listed. Correct?

Have you all done a match to determine with the driver's license file as to whether these folks have driver's licenses or not?

ANN MCGEEHAN: Uh-huh. We've been asked to do that and we're looking at this to make sure that -- looking at the official list of voters in the Secretary of State's office, trying to compare that to DPS. And our IT Department is looking at that, trying to get good matching criteria, because without that unique identifying number of the TDL, it can be sometimes difficult to make sure you have the right match.

UNIDENTIFIED REPRESENTATIVE:

Somebody came up and said there was 600 -- you have
that $600,000 person figure. Where does that come from? Do you have a frame of reference for that figure that there were 600,000 people who did not list after [sic] driver's license number or Social Security number?

ANN MCGHEEHAN: I think they're all coming from the same place, which that is -- and I -- you know, when we have shared information with the Legislature before, we've sort of shared two sets of information. One is -- that shows how many people have stated they don't have a TDL number or SSN number since January 1, because since January 1, 2006, because since January 1, 2006, it's been required. So since that time, we show 34,506 voters out of almost 4 million that stated they did not have I.D.

UNIDENTIFIED REPRESENTATIVE: Since 2006?

ANN MCGHEEHAN: Yes.

UNIDENTIFIED REPRESENTATIVE: And is there -- is there a provision -- provision in this bill to identify that use of voters as possibly not having I.D.?

ANN MCGHEEHAN: I'm sorry. I didn't understand.
UNIDENTIFIED REPRESENTATIVE: So, I mean, if you're looking at possible uses of voters that may not have the requisite I.D. to comply with this bill, is there anything in the bill that would require you to identify those folks, seek them out, determine whether they have I.D. or not?

ANN MCGEEHAN: No, I don't believe so.

CHAIRMAN BONNEN: Okay. Let's talk -- we talked, I know, briefly about training of poll workers.

Under this bill, what new duties will poll workers perform, what new duties?

ANN MCGEEHAN: Let's see. Of course, the qualification process will change as far as what they will, you know, require of a voter before they're permitted to vote. I can't really think of any new. They -- if a voter doesn't have I.D. today, they vote provisionally. So that will be the same.

I guess the main change will be voters that have filed a disability exemption with the Voter Registrar. Those voters aren't going to have to show I.D.

A voter who is 70 years of age or
before January 2012 won't have to show I.D. So those will be some new decisions they'll have to make.

UNIDENTIFIED REPRESENTATIVE: Talk to me about how you would administer those two exceptions, the disability and the age?

ANN MCGEEHAN: Well, we're going to have to come up with detailed training. So I don't -- I don't -- I can't tell you exactly how that's going to work. You know, we'll try to be very thoughtful about that and look to other states for best practices. But we'll have to revise our handbooks, all our training, our online training, video, to include guidance for the poll workers on how to handle those new duties.

CHAIRMAN BONNEN: With respect to the disability exemption, is there a document that the person would put on file to receive that type of exemption?

ANN MCGEEHAN: Yes. The -- the Committee Substitute -- and that document would be filed with the Voter Registrar, not with the -- not at the polling place. And it allows written documentation from the United States Social Security Administration that evidence that the voter has a
disability or written documentation from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

UNIDENTIFIED REPRESENTATIVE: So those are the only two ways to get the exemption?

ANN MCGEEHAN: Correct.

UNIDENTIFIED REPRESENTATIVE: Okay.

Okay.

CHAIRMAN BONNEN: Representative (inaudible).

UNIDENTIFIED REPRESENTATIVE: Yeah, yeah.

CHAIRMAN BONNEN: I was going to allow Members of the Committee to ask questions. And I see two of them have their lights on and have for some time. So, I mean, if you have more questions, I'll come back to you, but I'd like to let the Members of the Committee go ahead.

Representative Harless.

REPRESENTATIVE HARLESS: Hi. How are you?

ANN MCGEEHAN: I'm good. Thank you.

REPRESENTATIVE HARLESS: Could you tell us a little bit about the ongoing training that the Secretary of State does as a part of their job anyway?
ANN MCGEEHAN: We -- we have several formats of training. We have had a 30-minute video that we've had probably since the late '80s. And we update that regularly, usually after a Legislative session. We have detailed handbooks that are to be used inside polling places. We have now an online voter -- online training process, and we also do schools and seminars. So we have an annual seminar every summer for county officials.

REPRESENTATIVE HARLESS: This is -- this is something that you continue to do every year --

ANN MCGEEHAN: Yes.

REPRESENTATIVE HARLESS: -- as part your budget?

Can you tell me -- we've talked a lot about the Help America Vote Act fund. How much money was that originally?

ANN MCGEEHAN: I have my note on that somewhere. Well, I think overall we've received total for all the mandates in HAVA about $200 million and -- okay. I -- I found it now. I'm sorry. $227 million dollars.

REPRESENTATIVE HARLESS: And how much of that money have we spent?
ANN MCGEEHAN: We have spent about 80
percent of that money. What is remaining now is
about $47 million.

REPRESENTATIVE HARLESS: And how much
money in the base budget that we received in the
House under the Secretary of State was in that base
budget appropriated for HABA money for federal
election training?

ANN MCGEEHAN: I -- I believe in
House Bill 1 -- I don't think it's broken down by
purpose areas within HABA, but I think overall it
was about $37 million or --

REPRESENTATIVE HARLESS: 43, maybe?

It says under B1.4, "Strategy, elections
improvement, administration of federal Help America
Act -- Vote Act."

ANN MCGEEHAN: I defer to you. That
sounds right.

REPRESENTATIVE HARLESS: So of the
$2 million it is likely, once this bill is passed,
that we can request that funds from the -- from the
Help America Vote Act to be appropriated to spend
additional monies as needed to train and get up to
speed on the photo I.D.?

ANN MCGEEHAN: Right. I mean, I
guess, just to be clear, we already have drawn that
money down based on our State plan.

REPRESENTATIVE HARLESS: We have it
set up in our base budget that we started with that
that Pitts (phonetic) laid out?

ANN MCGEEHAN: Yes.

REPRESENTATIVE HARLESS: There's been
a lot of conversation today about the $90,000 that
we're talking about. And I know Representative
Anchia mentioned to the 2.8 million or 5.2.

There's two sets of numbers we're working
with, two universes. The first universe is
registered voters that are from January 1st of 2006
to December 31st, 2010. Correct?

ANN MCGEEHAN: Right.

REPRESENTATIVE HARLESS: How many are
in that universe?

ANN MCGEEHAN: Total of all?

REPRESENTATIVE HARLESS: In that 2000

ANN MCGEEHAN: I think the total --
the amount of voters that were registered during
that period is right under 4 million.

REPRESENTATIVE HARLESS: And those
are voters that, one, have a driver's license or
I.D.; that's about 2.3 million.
ANN MCGEEHAN: Right.
REPRESENTATIVE HARLESS: Then there's voters that have registered with the last four of their Social Security number, which is about 294,000.
ANN MCGEEHAN: Right.
REPRESENTATIVE HARLESS: Then there's voters that registered with both, which is 1.3 million. And then there's a number of people that registered that said they didn't have either.
ANN MCGEEHAN: Correct.
REPRESENTATIVE HARLESS: No Social Security, no I.D., driver's license. So that's 34,000.
Of that 3.9 million, that's .8 percent of that universe from January 1st until December 31st. Do I understand that correctly?
ANN MCGEEHAN: Yes, that's correct.
REPRESENTATIVE HARLESS: Okay. So now if we take all the statewide voters that are registered, all of them, even the ones prior to 2006, which I would fall into that category, because I haven't changed my address and I still have my original voter registration that gets renewed every
couple years, that I did not provide a Social Security last four or my I.D.

Of that number, how many do we have?

ANN MCGEEHAN: Of -- of that number we have 5.2 million that showed TDL I.D. We have 2.1 million that have a -- a Social Security number on file. And then the number of voters that have both is 4.6 million.

REPRESENTATIVE HARLESS: Which totals in -- in the ones that have neither numbers?

ANN MCGEEHAN: One with neither is the 690,000 insuring 693,087.

REPRESENTATIVE HARLESS: The total universes of registered voters that we have as the last numbers we've received is 12 million about 655,000.

Now, of that 690,000 do we think all of those people don't have either Social Security, I.D. or driver's license?

ANN MCGEEHAN: I want to -- I want to be careful on that, because, you know, we -- we don't have direct evidence. But we can say that before 2006 it wasn't required. So presumably, if it wasn't required, people wouldn't give it. Doesn't mean they didn't have it.
REPRESENTATIVE HARLESS: So presumably some of those 690,000 people have driver's license or I.D. cards or Social Securitys [sic], they just did not have to require it at the time?

ANN MCGEEHAN: I think that would be a fair statement.

REPRESENTATIVE HARLESS: All right. Another question about the fiscal note that we've talked about. Some of the counties attached, you know, small amounts of money that it would cost for their county. Aren't most -- how -- explain that to me. How can...

ANN MCGEEHAN: Well, I know on the Senate side there may have been some confusion regarding the voter registration certificate, because the bill requires that the new voter I.D. requirements appear on the back of the voter registration certificate. And I think that in conversations with some county officials they were thinking if you had to put it on the front of the certificate there wouldn't be space. So they thought the certificate might need to be increased in size, which would increase postage, but I don't think that's necessarily required. The bill doesn't
say that. It just says that it goes directly on the certificate.

I think another cost -- Tarrant County, I think, had another cost for changing of the provisional ballot affidavit form, some cost for that.

REPRESENTATIVE HARLESS: Now, there's some assumptions that the Secretary of State typically doesn't do a lot of this work. But isn't it true that they already do a lot of the work for the training? So those can be absorbed as part of your normal expense of your budget.

ANN MCBEEHAN: Right, right. We would -- you know, after every session we normally have to revise our training materials.

REPRESENTATIVE HARLESS: And can you talk just a little - and I'll quit so everyone else can ask their questions - but we've had some questions about different last names and different addresses.

What provisions will the Secretary of State make on that, and is there training done for that?

ANN MCBEEHAN: Currently, there's no training on that, because the law is silent on the
issue of what happens if the names don't match. But
the Senate Bill 14, the engrossed version and the
Committee Substitute, contains some language about
as long as the names are substantially similar. So
our training would have to include some standards
on, you know, what an election judge or clerk would
need to look for and what would be considered
substantially similar.

The addresses don't have to match right
now. And that -- and that doesn't change under
Senate Bill 14. You don't have to show, I don't
believe, that the -- the addresses have to -- you --
you're -- you have to ask every voter if they've
moved, but they don't have to show their -- their
identification doesn't have to show where they live.

REPRESENTATIVE HARLESS: Thank you so
much --

ANN MCGEEHAN: Sure.

REPRESENTATIVE HARLESS: -- for
waiting all day and being patient.

ANN MCGEEHAN: You're welcome.

CHAIRMAN BONNEN: Representative

Aliseda.

REPRESENTATIVE ALISEDA: What -- what
is the current state or federal law for purging
voter lists. Do you know?

ANN MCGEEHAN: Yes. That's covered under the National Voter Registration Act, and there are some requirements associated with that. For instance, you can't purge voters within so many days of a November general election. You can't purge voters if you suspect that they've moved until you've actually reached out to those voters and sent them a mailing. If they don't respond to that mailing, their name goes to an inactive list or what we call in Texas a suspect -- a suspense list. And they stay on that list for a period of two federal general elections. And if they don't vote or if they don't correspond or communicate with the Voter Registrar, their name would get purged on November 30th of the second federal election.

REPRESENTATIVE ALISEDA: Well, I'm trying to understand how that particular law interfaces with individuals who do not have an identification of some sort. You stated that since 2006 we have 34,000 of those individuals that have indicated they don't have any form of identification, but prior to 2006, we had an additional 500,000 that didn't have to provide that information.
So when would this purging require some kind of follow-up on identification?

ANN MCGEEHAN: Well, I don't -- nothing -- there's nothing in the State law or -- or the federal law or this bill that would require somebody that registered to vote before 2006 to now provide a driver's license number or Social Security number. When they present themselves for voting they're going to have to show a photo I.D. But they won't be required to provide that data to the Voter Registrar.

REPRESENTATIVE ALISEDÁ: As far as the cost of education on this issue, does the State allow for public service announcements by broadcasting companies that have -- have -- frequently do some kind of voter -- voter education?

ANN MCGEEHAN: Yes. We definitely try to make full use of that with our PSAs.

REPRESENTATIVE ALISEDÁ: But it's not figured into that two million or the --

ANN MCGEEHAN: No, no. That would be --

REPRESENTATIVE ALISEDÁ: -- 20 million or whatever it is you say we spend on education?
ANN MCGEEHAN: Right. I mean, that's something that we look for, but we'll probably go out on bid to -- to -- for a company to help us form this education program. And that's something we look at is what companies can promise that earned media so that we only pay for this much, but then we get it aired more times --

REPRESENTATIVE ALISEDA: Are these hearings earned media in a sense in that we have some public interest in this and I assume people are following it?

UNIDENTIFIED REPRESENTATIVE: We shouldn't flatter ourselves.

REPRESENTATIVE ALISEDA: No further questions.

CHAIRMAN BONNEN: Representative Anchia, do you have more questions?

REPRESENTATIVE ANCHIA: Just a couple more, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BONNEN: Take your time. I just --

REPRESENTATIVE ANCHIA: I appreciate that. I appreciate that.

The statement was made earlier in that 600,000-people universe that -- that there were --
that that equaled fraudulent voters. Do you share that belief?

ANN MCGEEHAN: I have no reason to think that those voters are fraudulent.

REPRESENTATIVE ANCHIA: Okay. Okay.

What happens to the voter registration certificate if this bill's passed in its current form?

ANN MCGEEHAN: It continues to exist, and so it will be sent out and it will now contain information on the identification requirements. And then voters who are 70 -- 70 as of January 2012 and the voters that have the disability exemption, they will be able to use their certificate as their forms of I.D.

REPRESENTATIVE ANCHIA: Okay. But it will be sent to all registered voters. Right?

ANN MCGEEHAN: Yes.

REPRESENTATIVE ANCHIA: We have 13 million, roughly, 12 --

ANN MCGEEHAN: A little under 13 million today.

REPRESENTATIVE ANCHIA: 12.6, 12.6?

ANN MCGEEHAN: Yeah. Yeah.

REPRESENTATIVE ANCHIA: What -- what -- what other functional purpose would it
serve? I mean, if you're not -- if you're not 70, you don't have the disability exemption.

ANN MCGEEHAN: I guess at this point it's going to serve more as a -- an informational tool to the voter. It will tell them what districts they're registered in, you know, which Congressional district, which State Senatorial District. I think there's five districts that have to be districts on the certificate.

Tell them their county election precinct number, which might help them find out where they need to go vote. So I guess it would be more for the voter's benefits and information.

REPRESENTATIVE ANCHIA: An alternative approach that we've discussed many times in this committee is simply adding a person's picture to the voter registration certificate and -- which would be a pretty easy fix. I think it -- the technology certainly exists. I mean, we might want to import some late 1990 -- '80s technology to -- to implement that very simple act, I mean, through a bubble jet printer or something like that, if you can find those.

Have you done a feasibility analysis on that approach as opposed to this approach?
ANN MCGEEHAN: I think there's one or two bills filed this session that kind of play that kind of approach. So I think we've tried to do some research to -- for purpose of responding to the fiscal note as to what they would take.

REPRESENTATIVE ANCHIA: Because it seems to me that would be the easiest fix here, just to add someone's photo. And there will be a universe of people who don't have a photo on file. Right? So if it was possible, for example, to work with Commander Deese (phonetic) at DPS and merge the TDL database photos down and -- and do a match with -- with the HABA-compliant --

ANN MCGEEHAN: Right.

REPRESENTATIVE ANCHIA: -- statewide voter registration database, and then you dump down the State I.D. photos, the non-TDL photos --

ANN MCGEEHAN: Uh-huh.

REPRESENTATIVE ANCHIA: -- and then you dump down maybe a CHL universe, you -- you -- you probably hit a pretty significant number. It wouldn't be complete. I mean, you would have to have some sort of mechanism at the polls to gather people's photos or an outreach. But can you -- we've had these suggestions around for a couple
sessions now. Can you talk about some of the -- the opportunities there or the challenges?

ANN MCGEEHAN: You know, we've -- we've done some preliminary analysis. I think the effort there would -- would be one of, you know, equipment and whether it would be the State issuing these cards or whether it would be the county, whether we'd give the -- you know, if -- if the State wanted to fund the county to have the equipment necessary to capture the pictures for those people that aren't --

REPRESENTATIVE ANCHIA: Sounds like we have HABA funds for this, though. Right?

ANN MCGEEHAN: Well, HABA funds -- HABA, you know, has certain express purposes. Voter education is one. I don't think we could use HABA to implement voter I.D.

REPRESENTATIVE ANCHIA: Say that again.

ANN MCGEEHAN: Well, HABA had -- has very express requirements in the federal law.

REPRESENTATIVE ANCHIA: But you just said you don't think you can use HABA funds to implement voter I.D.

ANN MCGEEHAN: Well, meaning what