NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

In Raleigh, North Carolina
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REP. HARRISON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have three quick questions of the bill sponsors.

I did not hear this articulated, but is there a photo ID requirement for absentee ballots?

REP. WARREN: Absentee ballots, you can submit a copy of your photo ID. You can also use a HAVA document. You could include your last four digits of your Social Security number or your driver's license number. And I believe on the driver's license number, we're requesting the state of issuance on the driver's license, so there's no confusion between a North Carolina license and an out-of-state license.

REP. HARRISON: Thank you for that. In here, you're permitting the use of an ID card for the UNC and North Carolina community colleges, but not private colleges? Is that accurate? Could you just explain the rationale for that, please?

REP. WARREN: Well, the university systems are a government-issued card, and we're trying to stay within the confines of a government-issued card. And obviously, the private universities wouldn't fall into that category. And that's one of the issues that's coming up with the tribal cards that we hope to address today, and
do you have a question for the bill sponsors?

REP. MICHAUX: Well, I'd like -- I have another question, but I'd like to follow up after that question on what just transpired, if you don't mind. My question is, to somebody, whoever has this, there is a private college that issues an ID to a North Carolina school. That ID will not be available to that student to use to vote?

REP. SAMUELSON: Correct. We are using government-issued ID. Part of the question you get with expanding to other private colleges and universities is keeping track of which ones qualify, which ones don't, and then you raise the question of, well, should you use employers. Once you get out of the government-issued into privately-issued, there's no clear line. So we made it on government-issued ID's.

REP. T. MOORE: Further questions of the sponsors? Do you have a question of the sponsors?

REP. MICHAUX: I have a statement I would like to make in terms of what transpired a few minutes ago, in terms of constitutionality.

REP. T. MOORE: You may debate the bill.

REP. MICHAUX: Thank you, sir. Mr. Chairman, one of the problems that I'm having with
you have a question? Duane Hall? Did you have a question? You had your hand raised earlier, and I think I passed through. Do you have a question?

REP. D. HALL: Just to ask for an amendment, an amendment.

REP. T. MOORE: All right. If there are no other questions at this time, I think we ought to probably at least go ahead and start taking up the amendments. I know Representative Murry has an amendment to the bill. Have copies of that amendment been distributed? If not, the sergeant at arms will please distribute. That's H589 AST 25, V2. And in the interest of time, if the members -- a number of members have sent amendments. If there's no objection, I'm going to go ahead and direct the staff to go ahead and start distributing the amendments, and the folks can be reading those. Any amendment sponsors don't want theirs distributed? I don't hear any -- I'll take silence as acquiescence, so we're going to do that, too.

Representative Murry, you may explain your amendment, sir.

REP. MURRY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 3 of your bill, lines 19 through 21, this is
where we're deleting the tribal identification card language until we can figure out just exactly the full scope of what that entails. So we're going to delete lines 19 through 21 on page 3. And then on page 13, line 15, this deals with the corporate guardianship.

REP. T. MOORE: You can continue.

REP. MURRY: On page 13, line 15, this deals with corporate guardianship. We're going to increase the number of names a corporation may submit from three to ten. This is a recommendation from the folks at the Arc of North Carolina to increase the list of named individuals from three to ten, and I would move adoption of the amendment.

REP. T. MOORE: Further discussion or debate on the gentleman's amendment? Seeing none, those in favor of submitting as favorable the adoption of the amendment will please say aye?

(Voice vote.)

REP. T. MOORE: Those opposed, no? The ayes have it; the amendment is adopted. The next amendment that we will take will be from the gentleman from Durham, Representative Michaux. And this will be 589 ATJ 17, V4. This amends page 3, lines 18 through 19, identification card.
Representative Michaux, you're recognized to explain your amendment, sir.

It's A -- it's ATJ 17 -- this is the one that adds in the identification card issued for government program of public assistance.

REP. MICHAUX: Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman, I have it. What this amendment does, it merely adds an identification card issued for a government program of public assistance. There are agencies of the government that any government, state, local or federal government can issue cards to people who get food stamps and this type of thing, and we ask that this be put in there as one of the identification cards, with the adoption of the amendment.

REP. T. MOORE: Do any of the bill sponsors wish to comment on the amendment?

REP. MURRY: This amendment is still subject to the requirements in E and I, which requires an expiration date and a photo requirement. I think this is already included in the legislation. I have no problem with this amendment. I would call this one of these belt and suspenders type amendments, and so I have no problem with this amendment, and I would be all
right with it.

REP. T. MOORE: All right. Further discussion, further debate on the amendment? Seeing none, submitting as favorable the adoption of the amendment, please signify by saying aye?

(Voice vote.)

REP. T. MOORE: Opposed, no?

(Voice vote.)

REP. T. MOORE: The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted. The next amendment we'll take, we'll stay with the gentleman from Durham on another amendment. This is H589, AST 18. This is the one that would amend line -- page 3, lines 36 and 37. And the gentleman from Durham is recognized to explain his amendment.

REP. MICHAUD: This -- I think, Mr. Chairman, the registered voter who has a photo identification that is more than 10 years old, or you know, beyond that expiration, if an election worker knows that voter and can independently confirm that voter's identity, then that photo identification can be used.

REP. T. MOORE: Members of the committee, just to make sure, the amendment that is being considered is H589, AST 18. Do members all have a
university has stricter standards for replacing a student ID, and that was Elon, than the state university, which was the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. So, I wish you would consider the students -- the private schools' student ID's. Like I said, it was harder to replace one at Elon than it was at Chapel Hill, and my girls didn't get their driver's licenses.

REP. T. MOORE: Further discussion, further debate? Seeing none, as many as favor the adoption of the amendment by the lady from Guilford, please signify by saying aye?

(Voice vote.)

REP. T. MOORE: Those opposed, no?

(Voice vote.)

REP. T. MOORE: In the opinion of the chair, the noes have it. The noes do have it, and the amendment fails.

Let's see. Representative Harrison, I believe we have one more amendment from you, H589 ATC 28, which is the identification -- the identification card. That was concerning the public high school. This is your amended amendment you've sent forth, correct?

REP. HARRISON: Yes, thank you, Mr.
Chairman.

REP. T. MOORE: The lady is recognized to explain her amendment.

REP. HARRISON: This amendment simply adds the opportunity for use of identification cards issued by public high schools in North Carolina. And again, in reviewing how other states handle it, these seem to be commonly accepted, and there are a lot of high school students who are voting. So I would urge the committee's support.

REP. T. MOORE: Do the bill's sponsors desire comment on the amendment?

REP. MURRY: This falls into the category of government-issued photo ID, and for -- so I would support this amendment, and it will be -- I think you should -- if you support it, vote your conscience.

REP. T. MOORE: Okay. Representative Iler, you're recognized to -- does the gentleman wish to state an inquiry or debate the amendment?

REP. ILER: I have a question for the bill sponsor.

REP. T. MOORE: You may state your inquiry.

REP. ILER: Representative Murry,
wouldn't this apply to very few individuals? I mean, among high school students eligible to vote? Don't you have to be 18 to vote?

REP. T. MOORE: That's correct. You can vote at the age of 17 if you would turn 18 by Election Day. And so, it could apply to some 17-year-olds in a primary situation, but I'd still -- you're still talking about just a handful -- handful of students. But at the end of the day, if it's a government-issued photo ID, that's still subject to the expiration date and photo requirements. And so -- I think we can -- it's still subject to the additional requirements, so I don't have any problem with this amendment.

REP. ILER: Follow-up?

REP. T. MOORE: The gentleman may state his follow-up.

REP. ILER: Representative Murry, are there any concerns in your research, or did you find any concerns about a high school ID being much easier to obtain, possibly, than a university or driver's license?

REP. MURRY: Representative Iler, I think that the school has a legitimate interest in making sure that the folks that are on the campus are
students and should be there, and so I think that's a similar interest that we're trying to go for, and improving integrity to vote. And so, I think the similar concerns are present in the universities. It's still a government-issued photo ID that's required to have an expiration date or an issuance date that should be less than 10 years old.

REP. T. MOORE: Further discussion, further debate on the amendment? Seeing none, as many as favor the adoption of the amendment set forth by the lady from Guilford, please signify by saying aye?

(Voice vote.)

REP. T. MOORE: Those opposed, no?

(Voice vote.)

REP. T. MOORE: The chair is unable to determine whether the amendment has passed. Those in support of the amendment, if you would please raise your hands?

(Vote tallied.) Keep your hands up, please, if you would. You know about my propensities with counting, so.

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER: Could we rely upon the staff?

REP. T. MOORE: Yeah. If they something
different from me, I'm going with them. I got 16. Okay, thank you. Those opposed, please raise your hands. (Vote tallied.)

The vote is 16 in the affirmative, 16 in the negative. The chair is also going to vote no. The amendment fails.

All right. The next amendment we have is H589 ATC 25, which is set forth by representative Hall of Wake. Representative Hall, you're recognized to explain your amendment, which would amend on page 13, lines 41 to 42.

REP. D. HALL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regardless of how we all feel about this bill, I think everybody can agree that this 22-section bill does add a lot of detail. So my very short amendment provides that the State Board of Elections shall provide a voter's guide, much in the same way it already does for judicial elections. And that voter guide is to explain the new voting identification procedures and have it distributed 30 days before the election.

This is something that I know a lot of the proponents of this bill have already talked about and been in favor of, but the current legislation doesn't provide for it. Unlike an