Fiscal Estimate - 2005 Session

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LRB	Number	05-2301/1		Introd	luction Num	ber S	B-119		
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives ELB 3/17/2005

LRB Number 05-2301/1	Introduction Number	SB-119	Estimate Type	Original					
Subject									
Funding for identification cards issued without charge to voters									

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The legislation provides for funding the costs of issuing photo identification cards incurred by the Department of Transportation to enable individuals to vote from federal funds administered by the State Elections Board. The legislation limits the reimbursable costs to \$250,000 per fiscal year.

The State Elections Board has received approximately \$50,000,000 in federal payments under the Help America Vote Act. Reimbursement funds can be taken from HAVA, Section 101 payments or HAVA Section 251 requirements payments.

The initial State HAVA Plan allocates the Section 101 funding to improving election administration including HAVA compliance requirements, election official training, voter education and Elections Board staffing. The original amount of HAVA Section 101 payments was approximately \$5,800,000.

The initial State HAVA Plan allocates the Section 251 funding to meeting federal mandates to design, develop and implement a statewide voter registration system (SVRS), and to equip each of the state's 3,000 polling places with a voting system that permits individuals with disabilities to vote privately and independently. The projected costs for SVRS design, development and implementation are \$24,000,000 and the projected costs for accessible voting equipment is \$18,000,000. Any remaining funds would be used for ongoing maintenance of the SVRS. The original amount of HAVA Section 251 payments was approximately \$43,000,000.

The State HAVA plan will have to be amended to reflect this change in spending priority and the subsequent reduction of federal funds available to meet the original plans.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

After 4 years of payments from HAVA federal funds by the Elections Board to the Department of Transportation there will no longer be any federal funds available to pay ongoing DOT costs.