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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Taylor DATE TYPED 2/19/05 HB _____

SHORT TITLE Technology Assistance program SB 816

ANALYST Weber

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$273.7			Recurring	General

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE

Estimated Revenue		Subsequent Years Impact	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06			
	\$821.0		Recurring	Federal

(Parenthesis () Indicate Revenue Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 816 appropriates \$273,660 from the general fund to The Public Education Department for the technology assistance program of the Vocational Rehabilitation Division to administer a statewide low-interest or no-interest loan program for disabled persons.

Significant Issues

DVR reports the appropriation will generate a federal fund match of almost \$821 thousand making a total budget of near \$1.1 million. These funds will be administered by DVR for disabled

persons to purchase rehabilitation technology. These technologies are designed to allow individuals to achieve greater independence in both daily living and employment. Typically such technology is expensive and most disabled persons live in fixed and/or low income environments. Rehabilitation technology is varied and is used to address a variety of issues such as communication, mobility, visual aides or auditory aides to name only a few.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$273,660 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 shall revert to the general fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

DVR has the capacity and staff expertise to administer the program in a fashion that provides professional advise to the clients on the proper technology.

MW/sb