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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/02/06

SPONSOR Picraux LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 513

SHORT TITLE Create Jobs for Disabled Veterans SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Geisler

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$350.0	Non-recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates: SB 514

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Department of Veterans' Services (DVS)  
 Governor's Commission on Disability (GCD)  
 Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 513 appropriates \$350,000 from the general fund in FY07 to the Veterans' Services Department to contract with a disability employment program to create jobs for disabled veterans and other persons with disabilities.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Veterans' Services does not anticipate any fiscal impact and will manage the contract within existing resources.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The federal Veterans Administration offers vocational training for disabled veterans, however, they do not do job placement or job creation. This bill would assist disabled veterans by creating

an avenue for these veterans to find employment. The DVS has the ability to identify and assist these disabled veterans and put them in touch with a wider network of employers.

People with significant disabilities have an unemployment rate of 70%. Those with moderate disabilities have a 35% unemployment rate. With the overall unemployment rate for New Mexico at around 5%, this group is under represented in the job market.

By providing funding, HB 513 will help implement HB 498 State Use Act for Persons With Disabilities passed during the 2005 session. That bill creates a council for purchasing from persons with disabilities that will determine program policies, set fair market pricing for services that can be provided to the state by groups such as community rehabilitation programs, and insure fair treatment to disabled individuals. The council will approve a central non-profit agency to carry out day-to-day operations.

In addition, the funding provided by this bill will help service disabled veteran small businesses (SDVOSB) utilize the federal procurement set aside created for SDVOSBs by the Federal Veterans Benefit Act of 2003

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

DVS states that its field service officers would not see a significant increase in workload since their function is to assist veterans.

#### **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

HB 513 is duplicated by SB 514.

#### **WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

Veterans and individuals with disabilities will continue to have extra barriers from being employed and being fully functional members of society.

GG/nt