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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/19/07

SPONSOR King LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 1051

SHORT TITLE Quality of Life for Persons with Disabilities SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Weber

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$500.0	Recurring	General

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Governor's Commission on Disability  
Public Education Department (PED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 1051 appropriates \$500 thousand from the general fund to the Governor's Commission on Disability for the purpose of funding the commission's participation in programs designed to improve the quality of life for persons with disabilities and to promote public awareness about disabilities in the public schools.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$500 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of Fiscal Year 2008 shall revert to the general fund.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

PED reports that according to the December 1, 2005 Special Education Count there were 50,322 (15.34%) students with disabilities ages 3 through 21 attending public schools, state-supported schools, private and home schools in New Mexico. (PED data). There are 300,000 adults who

self report having a disability; 24% of the population. This does include New Mexicans who may be institutionalized (2004 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System).

This year's appropriation will include a program to visit schools throughout New Mexico to promote awareness about persons with disabilities. This would meet the stated objective of the Governor's Commission on Disability to increase awareness and knowledge of disability issues, including the rights and needs of New Mexicans with disabilities among the general public.

The Governor's Commission on Disability adds the 2006 Legislature appropriated \$500.0 for improving the quality of life for people with disabilities. With this appropriation the Governor's Commission on Disability was able to fund several programs. These initiatives include:

- Created a quality of life grant program awarding over \$200.0 to fifteen nonprofit agencies and organizations around the state. There were over 80 applications for funding and \$1,300.0 in requests. The GCD reviewed the applications to assure that funding was provided to various disability proposal and spread across the state;
- Established a clearinghouse of disability related programs. This will allow individuals with disabilities to have a central resource to find disability organizations in New Mexico;
- Support the Southwest Conference on Disability. This is the only cross disability conference in the nation which focuses disability from the social, cultural model as oppose to an academic or medical perspective. Attendees at the conference include people with disabilities, family members, service providers, researchers and other interested parties. The conference was held October 4-6, 2006 and was the most successful conference to date. There were approximately 600 attendees from 24 states and 3 countries. Over 140 New Mexicans with disabilities were provided full scholarships. Governor Bill Richardson, U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman, and Speaker of the House Ben Lujan spoke at the conference giving their support of disability issues.;
- Support the John Hopkins Institute symposium on paralysis in conjunction with UNM;
- Organize a symposium to define quality of life from a disability perspective. Most quality of life definitions are based on people without disabilities. Quality of life differs for different people and different disabilities. This is a symposium to focus on a quality of life perspective for people with disabilities in New Mexico.

## **POSSIBLE QUESTIONS**

Could these funds be better utilized by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Commission for the Blind that provide direct services to enable persons with disabilities engage in productive employment and lives?

MW/mt