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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1-23-19

SPONSOR Ortiz y Pino **LAST UPDATED** _____ **HB** _____

SHORT TITLE Assistive Tech, Devices & Home Modification **SB** 139

ANALYST Esquibel

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY19	FY20		
	\$300.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Governor's Commission on Disability (GCD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 139 (SB139) would appropriate \$300 thousand from the general fund to the Governor's Commission on Disability for the technology assistance program providing assistive technology and devices for the care and maintenance of indigent individuals living with disabilities, and for the residential accessibility modification program.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$300.0 contained in SB139 is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY20 shall revert to the general fund.

The LFC budget recommendation for FY20 has a 2.4 percent increase in general fund for the Governor's Commission on Disability's technology assistance and residential accessibility modification programs. The Executive's budget recommendation includes a 7.5 percent increase

from the general fund for these programs.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Governor’s Commission on Disability (GCD) reports with its FY19 operating budget funding it has the capacity to serve 29 households per year. The additional funding from SB139 would allow GCD to meet the demand for requests for home modifications which is approximately 50 households per fiscal year.

Additionally, under the provision of the bill, indigent individuals with disabilities would be able to sample state of the art assistive technology through the statewide technology bank. The bank would have devices in inventory for professionals to try with their clients to assist students in public education and higher education, to assist potential employees with their job performance, and to assist individuals in their daily living tasks.

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