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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR <u>Thomson/Cates</u>	LAST UPDATED _____
	ORIGINAL DATE <u>2/21/23</u>
SHORT TITLE <u>Dev. Disability Transitional Education Pgms.</u>	BILL NUMBER <u>House Bill 355</u>
	ANALYST <u>Klundt</u>

APPROPRIATION* (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY23	FY24		
	\$275.0	Recurring	General Fund

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.
*Amounts reflect most recent version of this legislation.

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Department of Health (DOH)
Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of House Bill

House Bill 355 (HB 355) appropriates \$275 thousand to the Developmental Disabilities Supports Division of the Department of Health to contract with an organization that can provide workforce development services to people with developmental disabilities and develop pathways and support systems for students with transitional individualized education programs who are graduating from high school.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$275 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY24 shall revert to the general fund. Although House Bill 355 does not specify future appropriations, establishing a new grant program could create an expectation the program will continue in future fiscal years; therefore, this cost is assumed to be recurring.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DOH reports the bill is intended to provide services and supports to students with developmental disabilities so that they have access to resources as they transition from high school to college or to the workforce. From the department:

The Developmental Disabilities Supports Division has current contracts with Parents Reaching Out and the University of New Mexico, Center for Development and Disabilities' Partners for Employment. Both contracts have scopes of work specifically focused on school-to-work transition activities. The Developmental Disabilities Supports Division, Parents Reaching Out, and the University of New Mexico work collaboratively to provide education on advocacy, disability awareness, disability rights, individualized education plans (IEP), service plans for long-term supports, school-to-work resources, healthcare transition, and community access to increase the knowledge, skills, and tools in transition from school to adult life for youth, families, and self-advocates. ...

The bill may impact current stakeholders with existing school-to-work contracts with the Developmental Disabilities Supports Division.

PED reports its Division of Vocation Rehabilitation provides the services required by the bill with state and federal funds and HB355 might duplicate existing, statutorily required efforts. PED describes those services:

- **Vocational Counseling and Guidance.** Vocational rehabilitation counseling and guidance includes information and support services to assist an individual in exercising informed choices and is distinct from the case management relationship that exists between the counselor and the individual during the VR process.
- **Job Search Assistance, Job Development, and Job Placement Assistance.** Job search activities support and assist an individual in searching for an appropriate job. Job search assistance may include help in resume preparation, identifying appropriate job opportunities, developing interview skills, and making contacts with companies on behalf of the participant. Job placement assistance is a referral to a specific job resulting in an interview, whether the individual obtained the job or not.
- **Pre-Employment Transition Services.** In July of 2014, the reauthorization of the federal Workforce Investment Act occurred (the new version of the act is called the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and includes many changes focused on students with disabilities). Under the new Act, the NMDVR program has added a new service category, Pre-Employment Transition Services (PETS). The components associated with PETS and the agency both assist efforts with students' transition needs, such as job exploration counseling, work-based learning experiences, counseling on opportunities for enrollment in postsecondary education, workplace readiness training, instruction in self-advocacy, disability determination services, vocational rehabilitation technology, and employment training.
- **New Mexico Disability Determination Services (NMDDS).** NMDDS measures of quality consistently rank amongst the highest in the region and in the nation. The NMDDS adjudicates cases for Social Security disability benefits. The Social Security Administration (SSA) provides New Mexico millions of dollars annually for disability benefits. Nationally, the SSA contracts to provide disability determination services. In New Mexico, SSA contracts with the NMDVR to adjudicate cases for the residents of the state. SSA funds the NMDDS at 100 percent to include administrative

overhead to the NMDVR. As a result of 100 percent funding, SSA maintains extensive control over the day-to-day.

- **Vocational Rehabilitation Technology.** This includes rehabilitation engineering services, assistive technology devices, and assistive technology services. These services assist in meeting the needs of, and address the barriers confronted by, individuals with disabilities in areas that include education, rehabilitation, employment, transportation, independent living, recreation, home and vehicular modification, other assistive devices including, but not limited to hearing aids, low vision aids, and wheelchairs.
- **Training Services.** Training services are designed to help an individual improve educationally or vocationally or to adjust to the functional limitations of his or her impairment. Training services provided by DVR include (but not limited to): graduate college or university training, four-year college or university training, junior or community college training, occupational or vocational training, on-the-job training, apprenticeship training, disability related skills training, and miscellaneous training opportunities as requested or scheduled by the department.”

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