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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Townsend DATE TYPED: 02/02/01 HB 30  
 SHORT TITLE: Assistive Technology for Disabled SB \_\_\_\_\_  
 ANALYST: Gilbert

### APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY01	FY02	FY01	FY02		
	\$ 535.0	See Significant Issues		Recurring	GF

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to House 121

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### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files  
 State Department of Education (SDE)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 30 appropriates \$535.0 to the State Department of Education (SDE) Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) to provide needed assistive technology to persons with disabilities.

#### Significant Issues

DVR will use this appropriation to guarantee loans for disabled individuals who purchase assistive technology devices on credit.

According to the SDE, the financial loan guarantee program is currently supported with \$100.0 from federal sources. This appropriation will allow the DVR to serve more clients, many of whom are considered to be high financial risks. The National Institute of Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) is currently offering states a 50% federal funding match under a request for proposal in this area. If New Mexico puts up \$535.0, this loan program could be expanded to over \$1 million if DVR's proposal is accepted.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$535.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY02 shall revert to the general fund.

**CONFLICT/DUPLICATION/COMPANIONSHIP/RELATIONSHIP**

House Bill 121 appropriates \$1,000.0 to the State Department of Education (SDE) Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) to provide statewide services, through independent living centers, to persons with disabilities.

LG/ar:prr