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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/11/07

SPONSOR Stapleton LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 356

SHORT TITLE Disabled Person Driver's Rehab Program SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Weber

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$179.2	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Governor's Commission on Disability

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 356 appropriates \$179 thousand from the general fund to the Governor's Commission on Disability for the purpose of providing a driver's rehabilitation program for disabled persons.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$179 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

The governor's Commission on Disability estimates the following as start-up costs related to a rehabilitation driver's program.

Training Vehicle	32,700
Equipment	6,000
Staff (2.5 FTE)	31,600

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Continuing Edu.	2,200
Licensure	400
Insurance	1,700
Vehicle Gas/Maintenance	4,600

However, this only totals \$78 thousand and it is not explained how the other \$100 thousand would be used.

The Governor's Commission notes that for most people, driving a motor vehicle in New Mexico is essential to the tasks of everyday living - commuting to work, running errands, or taking children to school. Driving is synonymous with freedom, independence, and self-sufficiency. This is also true for a person with a disability. After rehabilitative assessment and evaluation, the driving needs of people with disabilities can be accommodated through the use of adaptive vehicle equipment, safe driver training, or both.

When persons with disabilities want to drive or need re-training to drive, due to a recent disability, there are not driving training facilities available in New Mexico. Due to the unique driving techniques needed for these drivers, driving schools do not wish to train them and do not have the proper staff. Organizations in the past have had instruction for such drivers; however, insurance costs have prevented them from continuing. This is an effort to provide a source for individuals with disabilities to learn to properly drive a vehicle with adaptive devices.

The Governor's Commission continues that it would be necessary to send out to Request for Proposals (RFP) or the agency would need to find a governmental or other non-profit organization to provide services. The agency would coordinate and administer the funding for this appropriation.

The Association for Driver Rehabilitation Specialists refers two companies in New Mexico offering such services.

MW/csd