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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/25/08

SPONSOR Ryan LAST UPDATED HB

SHORT TITLE Spinal Cord Related Paralysis Research SB 208

ANALYST Weber

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$500.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

The Governor's Commission on Disability (GCD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Bill appropriates \$500 thousand from the general fund to the Governor's Commission on Disability programs, education and research relating to improvements for spinal cord-related paralysis, or transverse myelitis, through contracts with a regional not-for-profit organization that can provide therapeutic programming and education, and to encourage research, to be distributed as follows:

1. three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) to increase disability-friendly recreation and tourism and provide adaptive swimming and skiing as well as hippotherapy in New Mexico;
2. eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000) to organize and administer a conference promoting medical cooperation and research on paralysis through a regional symposium; and
3. one hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$120,000) to expand public awareness of spinal cord-related paralysis in the medical community and among the general population of the state.

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 FY09 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Governor's Commission on Disability (GCD) feels the items contained in the bill are important. Last week, GCD received a call from someone who got a spinal-cord injury by simply lifting weights. Many military men and women will return with spinal chord injuries. GCD feels there is a need for awareness and research for spinal chord injuries. GCD used \$80.0 from the first Quality of Life appropriation to sponsor the first Southwestern Neuroimmunologic Symposium. The Quality of Life Small Grants Program provided grants for programs to help New Mexicans with spinal related injuries.

GCD feels as part of our mission and the directive provided by statute, the agency should not concentrate on any one disability but all disabilities and throughout the state.

MW/bb