

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current and previously issued FIRs are available on the NM Legislative Website ([www.nmlegis.gov](http://www.nmlegis.gov)).

## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Ortiz y Pino ORIGINAL DATE 1/22/2021  
LAST UPDATED 1/28/2021 HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Home Modification for Indigent Disabled SB 47

ANALYST Esquibel

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY21	FY22		
	\$300.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Governor's Commission on Disability (GCD)

#### No Responses Received

Department of Health (DOH)

Human Services Department (HSD)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 47 (SB47) would appropriate \$300 thousand from the general fund to the Governor's Commission on Disability (GCD) to provide funding for the following programs for the care and maintenance of indigent individuals living with disabilities: (1) the New Mexico technology assistance program providing assistive technology and devices; and (2) the residential accessibility modification program.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The bill includes a \$300 thousand FY22 recurring appropriation from the general fund to the Governor's Commission on Disability. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY22 would revert to the general fund.

GCD reports with the funding considered in SB47, the residential accessibility modification program (RAMP) could complete an additional 25 home modification for indigent individuals

with disabilities at an average cost per modification of \$6 thousand. Currently, GCD completes approximately 50 to 60 RAMP projects annually. Under the provisions of the bill, the technology assistance program (TAP) could purchase assistive technology equipment to provide device demonstrations and device loans to people with disabilities including speech to text software for individuals who have speech difficulties and cognitive/learning disabilities; accessible text formats for people who have low vision, are blind, and who have cognitive disabilities; hardware and software that gives digital access to individuals who are quadriplegic through vision controlled operational functions; and organizational devices and software for people with cognitive disabilities. These types of assistive technology equipment would cost between \$2 thousand to \$8 thousand each.

The LFC and Executive FY22 budget recommendations for the Governor's Commission on Disability maintain the current FY21 operating level of funding of \$527.5 thousand in federal funds for TAP. The Executive's FY22 budget recommendation maintains most of the current operating level of funding of \$347.6 thousand for RAMP (\$247.6 in general fund and \$100 thousand in fund balance). The LFC FY22 budget recommendation for RAMP is 5 percent below operating levels per the agency's request.

The Commission for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Persons and the Commission for the Blind provide technology assistance and adaptive equipment to the clients they serve. The developmental disabilities, medically fragile, and Mi Via Medicaid waivers also provide adaptive equipment to their clients.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

GCD indicates the purchase of new assistive technology equipment would require TAP project staff to learn how to use the new equipment and plan how to demonstrate the devices in a virtual environment. This work could be performed with current staff, as well as any additional administrative work.

RAE/al/rl