

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Providing Assistive Technology for People with Disabilities

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Overview

This bill requires the Council on Disability to facilitate a statewide study of the assistive technology needs of people with disabilities and seniors and to report findings to the legislature. The bill also appropriates money for the study, the Minnesota Regions Assistive Technology Collaborative, and for local match required to access federal Technology Related Assistance Act funds.

Section

1 Assistive technology study and report.

Subd. 1. Study. (a) During the 2008-09 biennium, requires the Council on Disability to facilitate a statewide study of the assistive technology needs of people with disabling conditions and seniors. Requires the council to identify entities involved in providing assistive technology supports. Requires the study to include an examination of the creation of an assistive technology pretax savings account.

(b) Requires the council to provide oversight and direction to the Minnesota Regions Assistive Technology Collaborative during the 2008-09 biennium.

Subd. 2. Report. Requires the council to present to the chairs of the legislative committees having jurisdiction over human services a report of the findings of the study, including proposed legislation, by January 1, 2009.

2 Appropriations. (a) Appropriates \$200,000 for the 2008-09 biennium from the general

Section

fund to the Council on Disability for the assistive technology study.

(b) Appropriates \$300,000 in each year of the 2008-09 biennium from the general fund to the Council on Disability to provide financial support to the Minnesota Regions Assistive Technology Collaborative.

(c) Appropriates \$200,000 in fiscal year 2008 from the general fund to the commissioner of administration to complete the state's remaining share of the local match required to access the federal Technology Related Assistance Act for Persons with Disabilities Title III, Alternative Financing Project 2003 grant award, which provides microloans to individuals to acquire assistive technology devices and services.