



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #586

Physically Handicapped Supplements (Program Supplements)

CURRENT LAW

There is a GPR appropriation (and comparable PR and SEG appropriations) titled "Physically Handicapped Supplements" established under Program Supplements for the supplementation of state agencies' GPR (and PR and SEG) operating budgets. Adjusted base level funding for the GPR appropriation is \$6,800.

GOVERNOR

Continue base level funding of \$6,800 GPR in 2005-06 and 2006-07.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. Funds are reserved in this appropriation to supplement an agency's GPR operating budget for the cost of acquiring services or acquiring, maintaining or renting special equipment to accommodate a physical disability of a state employee who, without such equipment, could not perform the responsibilities of the position to which he or she is appointed. However, the statute provides that supplemental funding under this appropriation for such service acquisition may not exceed the service cost for a three-month period per employee.

2. The amounts in this appropriation are provided as sum certain, annual amounts. If total agency needs were to exceed the budgeted level, supplemental funding would have to be sought elsewhere, such as from the Joint Committee on Finance's general supplemental appropriation.

3. Funding for this appropriation in the 2003-05 budget was \$6,800 GPR annually. Funding for this appropriation in the 2001-03 budget was \$6,900 GPR in 2001-02 and \$6,800 GPR

in 2002-03. No monies were expended from this appropriation in 2001-02, 2002-03 or 2003-04. Further, the State Budget Office does not anticipate any requests for funding in 2004-05.

4. The Department of Administration would likely argue that having these funds available is prudent in the event an agency should develop a funding need. Further, DOA would likely point out that if the funds are not needed, they will automatically lapse back to the general fund at the close of each fiscal year.

5. The alternative argument could be made that it is unlikely, based on the last four years experience, there will be any request for supplementation and therefore, it is unnecessary to set any funds aside for this specific purpose. Under this view, if a funding requirement should develop, an agency - if it could not fund the service acquisition cost from within its existing operating budget - could request a funding supplement from the Committee's general GPR appropriation.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Approve the Governor's recommendation.
2. Delete base level funding of \$6,800 GPR annually.

Alternative 2	GPR
2005-07 FUNDING (Change to Bill)	- \$13,600

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