Bill as Introduced

22mar01...0118h

2001 SESSION

01-0589
05/09

HOUSE BILL ***206-FN-A***

AN ACT establishing an equipment depository and disabled person's employment fund in the department of administrative services.

SPONSORS: Rep. Whittier, Rock 18

COMMITTEE: Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services

ANALYSIS

This bill establishes an equipment depository and disabled person's employment fund in the department of administrative services, for purposes of purchasing adaptive equipment for disabled persons.

. . . . . .

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics.***
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~]
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

01-0589
05/09

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand One

AN ACT establishing an equipment depository and disabled person's employment fund in the department of administrative services.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 New Subdivision; Equipment Depository; Disabled Person's Employment Fund. Amend RSA 21-I by inserting after section 44-d the following new subdivision:

Equipment Depository

21-I:44-e Equipment Depository. There is hereby established an equipment depository within the division of personnel. Moneys contained in the disabled persons' employment fund, established by RSA 21-I:44-f, shall be used to purchase adaptive equipment and accommodations to enable disabled persons to become gainfully employed by the state and any political subdivision of the state. The division shall determine the equipment to be purchased. The purchases shall be limited to equipment which provides reasonable, and not extraordinary, accommodations to the needs of the disabled, such as telephone adapters, adjustable desks, and other like equipment. The division shall have authority to reissue equipment returned to the depository and to dispose of any equipment that is no longer useful and to deposit any sale proceeds in the fund established by RSA 21-I:44-f.

21-I:44-f Disabled Persons' Employment Fund. There is hereby established a nonlapsing fund to be known as the disabled persons' employment fund to be used solely for the purposes of RSA 21-I:44-e and which shall be continually appropriated to the division of personnel for that purpose. The division, with the approval of governor and council, may accept, and is encouraged to seek, gifts, grants, and private donations for deposit in the fund established by this section.

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

LBAO
01-0589
1/11/01

HB 206-FN-A - FISCAL NOTE

AN ACT establishing an equipment depository and disabled person's employment fund in the department of administrative services.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Budget Assistant is unable to complete a fiscal note for this bill as it is awaiting information from an agency.

Committee Minutes

Date: May 16, 2001
Time: 1:15
Room: 104,LOB

The Senate Committee on Executive Departments and Administration held a hearing on the following:

HB 206-FN	establishing an equipment depository and disabled person's employment fund in the department of administrative services.

Members of Committee present:	Senator Prescott Senator Flanders Senator Larsen Senator D'Allesandro

---

The Chair, Senator Russell Prescott, opened the hearing.

Senator Russell E. Prescott, D. 19: I'm going to open up the hearing for the Senate ED&A Committee on HB206, *establishing an equipment depository and disabled person's employment fund in the Department of Administrative Services.*

We are very pleased to have the prime sponsor here, Representative John Whittier. Thank you.

Representative John Whittier, D.18: Thank you, Senator Prescott, Committee. For the record, my name is John Whittier, I represent Rockingham, District 18, which is Brentwood, Kingston and Newton, NH.

I serve in the House on the Labor Committee. The concept of this bill was brought forward after a study committee a couple of years ago. The piece of legislation came out of that committee sponsored by Mary Brown who was formerly a Senator.

It came to our Labor Committee last year and it was found to be ITL because it had included in it, the need for interpreters. The cost factor was a little concerning of our Committee. So I re-constructed the bill without the element

of the interpreters in it and I thought that it would certainly get through our Committee, which it did with a rousing unanimous vote.

So, I think it's great legislation and you've already commented that I think there's a similar piece that came through the Senate (SB176-FN-A), in fact, I wouldn't testify that the language is exactly the same, but it certainly is very close.

What this bill does is it sets up under the Department of Administrative Services a fund which would buy, provide for Departments in the State, adaptive devices so that the Departments would then be free to hire people with special needs. As opposed to this individual going to apply for a job to the Department, the Department saying well we'd like to hire you, but we don't have any money in our budget to accommodate your need.

So, this way these adaptive devices would be purchased centrally, distributed as needed, returned to the central location and redistributed when needed. They could be as simple as a cradle for a telephone, $10 or $15 item. Could be as simple as blocks of wood under a desk to allow a wheelchair access under a desk.

They could be more complicated and you'll hear testimony about the extent of them, but I happen to have personal knowledge of reading machines. My father experienced an eye impairment and he used a reading machine. That device cost $2,000. So, they're not all nickel and dime items, but on the other hand, I think, on a Statewide basis, for the State budget, we're not talking about a budget buster.

We're talking about a rate, simple, straight forward, beginning of a process perhaps, to make the State a better employer. That's the way I like to look at it. To give the State an opportunity to be a real equal opportunity employer and provide for the needs. Therefor, show a leadership on this issue in the State because we're asking private industry to assist us in employing everyone on an equal basis.

We should certainly be a leader in that area. I think this would give us an opportunity to start that process. That's all I have, I'm happy to answer questions, but I think you'll find people that testify after me really understand the issue a great deal more.

Senator Russell E. Prescott, D. 19: Senator Flanders you have a question?

Senator Robert B. Flanders, D. 7: Unfortunately, we don't have a fiscal impact note because they say they're waiting for information from the agency. Do you have a "guestimate"?

Representative John Whittier, D.18: I had heard that the average cost per employee would be in the neighborhood of $300. I think the testimony, the anticipation would be the line might begin at somewhere in the vicinity of $10,000 to start this process off, but I'm not the authority on that end of it, thank you, so I'll defer to the other folks to confirm that.

Senator Russell E. Prescott, D. 19: Thank you, very much.

Representative John Whittier, D.18: Thank you.

Senator Russell E. Prescott, D. 19: Michael D. Jenkins.

Michael D. Jenkins: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, I'm Michael Jenkins, I'm the Executive Director of the Governor's Commission on Disability. I'm here, as the Commission is in full support of HB206. Would like to elaborate, maybe, on Representative Whittier's testimony.

The reason there's no fiscal note is there is no impact on this State or cities and towns. This is a vehicle to set up a conduit for funds and private donations and there is no "General Fund" appropriation. That was done by design, the feeling of the sponsors and others was that this is not the best time to come with a "General Fund" request. So, if we could set this up and get private donations and grants to support to the program we would have a vehicle by which to do it.

A couple of things I will bring out is that Senator Brown, when she did the study was very thorough and very responsible in her research in coming up with this piece of legislation. I will say that there is a concurrent piece of legislation in the NH legislature, HB350, which is a worker's incentive bill.

Which allows for people with disabilities to enter the workforce without losing their support. A lot of people are qualified and able to work who have significant disabilities but they're caught in a "catch 22". Were they to take the job, then they'd lose their supports and their insurance. They just can't afford to do it because of the severity of their disability.

This bill that's passed now, the House and the Senate will allow a medicaid by-in provision which would allow these people to enter the workforce. So, we're expecting a greater influx of people applying for jobs in this State.

Another factor to consider is that the Americans with Disabilities Act, in effect since 1990, calls for in state, local government, and in the private sector that reasonable accommodations be made in the employment of arena so as not to discriminate against qualified, I stress that word qualified people with disabilities.

The equipment that we're looking for is not only to provide employment, but also to help the Department of Personnel with testing. Their could be someone with a visual impairment or someone with a mobility impairment that may be precluded from taking tests at the Dept. of Personnel. Some of those are timed tests and someone with a severe learning disability may ask for more time, for example, to take the test. That would be a reasonable accommodation.

Someone with a visual impairment may need a magnifying apparatus so that they could read better, they may need a little more time. But, in terms of the actual use of this thing. I'd like to use my office as an example. We hired a blind attorney a few years ago who came...passed the NH Bar, was a practicing attorney. In order to do the work for us, he would have to have this apparatus in his computer that would read text.

It's a marvelous invention where there's a synthetic voice that actually reads what comes up on your computer. It runs a couple thousand dollars, but it just opens a wide world of opportunity for people who are blind or visually impaired.

Now we wanted to hire this guy, but we're a small agency, we don't have a disposable $3,000 or so. So, luckily for us, he had the equipment, he brought his stuff from home. If this bill were in place, we'd have this equipment available and then, someone who was blind, who came to get a job would be able to access this. Then, of course, if they leave, we'd give it back and we'd have it available for others.

We have a person, called a "little person", a person who is a dwarf who works at our office. In order for her to do her job appropriately, we had to move everything downscale. We had to get her a smaller desk, had to get stools so she could reach the copier and some of the files. It wasn't a lot, $4 or $500, but we had to do it. We're one small agency, we have Carol Nadeau who, many of you know, she's a columnist for the *Union Leader* . Writes a weekly column on disability.

She has rather severe physical limitations, she can't reach, she can't lift, a number of things. Yet, she has a master's degree and probably the most competent person on my staff. In order for her to function, we put an

automatic door opener so she could get into her office because she can't open doors good. That was less than $1,000 and then we had Crochet Mountain Foundation construct a lazy-susan sort of device that so her files are on a circular thing, so she can pull the files right from her desk.

Things like that, of course, she needed a smaller desk. Maybe $1,500 to get Carol to work. So, it's that kind of stuff and Matt Solczelski (sp), who's our Chairman is, as you know, he was the Chairman of the House Health and Human Services Committee for a number of years, he has Muscular Dystrophy. The accommodation for him was as simple as putting the blocks under a desk, so that he could get his wheelchair in.

So, it's those types of things. We're one small agency, and we're ...thousand employees and we would hope that there would be a lot of people in similar type situations who would like to work for State government. This would just provide a vehicle from which they could easily access reasonable accommodations. I can't think of anything else right now, I'd be happy to answer any questions.

Senator Russell E. Prescott, D. 19: Senator Flanders.

Senator Robert B. Flanders, D. 7: I'm happy to hear you testify that you're using Crotchet Mountain because I'm familiar with Crotchet Mountain, my wife works there and they do have some wonderful people up there that come up with great inventions to assist the handicapped, it's amazing some of the things they do, so I'm happy to hear that you're working with them.

Michael D. Jenkins: Mr. Dickinson who's going to testify after I'm finished is Granite State Independent Living has a contest each year that's called "The Adaption Contraption" contest. Where they challenge people in the community to come up with these little super devices to make reasonable accommodations and it's quite effective.

Senator Russell E. Prescott, D. 19: Any questions from the Committee? From your testimony, your intent of the bill is to never use State money then.

Michael D. Jenkins: I guess I'd defer to the sponsor, but the intention was not to ask for State money now because of the financial situation of the State and it just seemed like a prudent way to do it. My guess is that if its, if the private donations and the grants are forthcoming that there would be no need to ask the State for funds.

Senator Russell E. Prescott, D. 19: Was that your intention, Representative Whittier?

Representative John M. Whittier, D.18: Yes. Obviously, the line would be subject to a future budget review as Mike says, if we're not getting the help we need through private donations, it may be an opportunity that we'll have to face up to and put some money in that line, but it's not to fund it immediately.

Senator Russell E. Prescott, D. 19: Alright, thank you.

Senator Lou D'Allesandro, D. 20: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mike, we've heard that the unemployment rate of people with disabilities is 60 to 70%, is that correct?

Michael D. Jenkins: I had heard as high as 77%.

Senator Lou D'Allesandro, D. 20: Further question?

Senator Russell E. Prescott, D. 19: Yes.

Senator Lou D'Allesandro, D. 20: If these devices are procured and put in place, will, in essence, we be able to enhance the capability of bringing disabled people into State government so they can be productive workers?

Michael D. Jenkins: Yes, Senator and I would quickly add that it would have to be in concert with this other legislation which actually I think Senator D'Allesandro sponsored. This work incentive thing where people would go to work and...

Senator Lou D'Allesandro, D. 20: But...further question, if I may?

Senator Russell E. Prescott, D. 19: Certainly.

Senator Lou D'Allesandro, D. 20: We have 2 pieces of legislation that are basically analogous, SB176 and HB206 both wanting to do the same thing with just a couple minor differences. I guess my point is that, there's no money in either piece of legislation?

Michael D. Jenkins: No "General Fund"...

Senator Lou D'Allesandro, D. 20: ..."General Fund" revenues, but we're encouraging people to participate and I might say that in your office, you have made every effort to hire people with disabilities and it worked out well, am I correct?

Michael D. Jenkins: Absolutely.

Senator Sylvia B. Larsen, D. 15: Another question.

Senator Russell E. Prescott, D. 19: Yes, Senator Larsen.

Senator Sylvia B. Larsen, D. 15: Another question that came up in that House hearing today, but I never got to hear the answer to, but, what were the sources of some of the private donations and grants that are possibly available to fill these funds?

Michael D. Jenkins: Well, off the top of my head, I can't be more specific than this. That there are some Independent Living funds, there are some ADA employment enhancement funds which have some flexibility, we could use the federal funds.

But, I was thinking along the lines, because there's so many technological turnovers because of the constant advancements, that the equipment for example, that reads for the blind, is constantly being updated. It would seem to me that some of the contractors or those who sell those machines would turn over the last model as a donation to the State. They'd still be quite useful and we'd be able to pass those on. That would be another vehicle that I...

Senator Russell E. Prescott, D. 19: Thank you very much.

Michael D. Jenkins: Okay, thank you.

Senator Russell E. Prescott, D. 19: Jeff Dickinson.

Jeff Dickinson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee. My name is Jeff Dickinson and I'm from Wolfeboro. [Refer to Attachment I] I'm here partly representing people with disabilities as a person with a disability with myself. I'm also here representing Granite State Independent Living here in Concord, which is the State's only cross disability independent living center.

We've been around for about 20 years now and we've provided services in the community to help folks with disabilities be a part of their community and live in the community. Generally, as everybody else would.

I have some written testimony [Refer to Attachment I] that I'll give to you all when I'm finished. I think I have enough copies for everybody here. Rather than read from that, I just figured I'd pick a few points that I thought were most important and address them.

One thing I would point out is a lot of times in the community... 1st let me step back for a minute. I probably should tell you a little bit about myself by way of example.

I'm 30 years old I have Muscular Dystrophy, which is a progressive disability. When I was a teenager I was walking fairly normally and I have progressed to the point now, as you see, where I'm using a power chair. My dog is a service dog, who's trained to help me do a number of different activities.

As a progressive disability, certainly the time frame of progression is very uncertain, but one thing that is certain is that it will progress. My physical ability will decline as I get older. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Business Admin. and I have a Master's Degree in education. I've worked in a lot of different sectors from Fortune 500 companies to small or state businesses within NH and also the education arena and then now, Granite State Independent Living.

I bring that up because of the fact that there are a lot of folks like me with disabilities who have education, who have past experience and who are really very qualified to work in a number of different positions. Some of them in the private sector and, of course, some of them within State government. One of the issues that was talked about was the high rate of unemployment among people with disabilities.

In that regard, I guess, I'm fortunate to be one of those folks who hasn't had that problem. I've worked since I was about 12 years old at part time jobs and then I just worked all the way through. A lot of that is just kind of luck on my part that I had a family behind me that could support me and I was able to get an education and that's really what has allowed me to do that.

There are a lot of folks out there who have already done that with disabilities and who would like to do that. So, I use myself as an example to show that I am just one of many people who probably would benefit from this bill and, certainly, in my mind the State is an employer that I've certainly considered

different times when positions have come up, but down the road you never know.

A few points that I think are important. One is that if you go out in the community, a lot of times people hear reasonable accommodations and they think of things to make it easier to go to work or make somebody's job more easily accomplished for them.

Sometimes, it's the case, but I would point out that for a lot of folks with disabilities, a reasonable accommodation is what will allow them to either be employed or not be employed. A lot of times it really does come down to being that black and white. One little thing could make all the difference, so I think we're talking about reasonable accommodations, it's important to remember that those are really vital in most cases.

I think one of the most important phrases in the bill is this idea of reasonable accommodations as opposed to what the bill calls extraordinary. That falls in line with the Americans with Disabilities Act, as far as their language of reasonable accommodations. The idea basically being that an accommodation is not supposed to financially harm a business or an organization or employer.

If an accommodation does prove to be an undue burden, the law says that that employer doesn't have to do that, if it's going to really effect your financial position or if it's going to materially alter the business that that employer is in.

So, I think this idea of reasonable accommodations makes sense. Some of the examples in the bill, phone adapters, adjustable desks, those are some simple ones. There are other accommodations that are even simpler. Bricks under a desk to raise it up or blocks under a desk. A strap on a door to make it easier to open from a wheelchair, or, as Mr. Jenkins talked about, a power door. I would point out that a lot of these accommodations are things that someone who's kind of handy can go out to say Home Depot or somewhere else and get pretty everyday things and convert them into something that works.

But, a lot of times, reasonable accommodation has more to do with ingenuity than it does with a financial outlay or an equipment outlay. Although, sometimes that is a necessity.

I think it's interesting in that regard that in the age of Hi-Tech a lot of workplace are really pretty low tech items. An example I often use is there's a gentleman right in my office who has quadriplegia from a motorcycle accident and he needed a way to get his keyboard out so he could use his computer

and I believe he worked with NH A-Tech over in Laconia who does a lot of accommodations.

What they wound up doing was they went, probably to Home Depot and they got a little bit of lumber. They got a little tray to set the keyboard on. They went out and got drawer runners that you put in your kitchen draws and they actually made kind of a tray for the keyboard where it just kind of comes out and you can use it. So, sometimes it's as simple as something like that.

Another good example in the House Chamber, in the seat where Representative Carol Williams, there are some reasonable accommodations there. They took the seat out so that she could sit there, they made a little ramp to level out the slope of the floor and they put her voting box on a little arm that is flexible so that she can move it to where she can reach it.

All those, I would imagine were relatively inexpensive and, probably whoever the maintenance staff probably did it themselves, I would imagine. It looks great and it works really well for her. This bill falls right in line with a lot of federal initiatives right now to help folks with disabilities get back into the workforce or get into it in the first place.

It falls in line with some State initiatives, such as the Work Incentive Act that you've heard about before. So, in that regard, I think it dovetails nicely with a lot of these State initiatives and federal initiatives. I think the final thing I would say about it is I really do view this as a win/win situation for both parties.

I think the State wins because it does gain more access to, frankly an under utilized and qualified workforce of a lot of folks with disabilities who want to go to work. I think people will find are very committed because the fact is in a lot of ways, circumstances have kept them from employment, it is something they really want.

They want to be able to pay their way and I think a lot of the times that type of drive makes for a really committed, really good employee. Certainly, the benefit to folks with disabilities is obvious in regard to the fact that it basically helps open up the State's largest employer to qualified individuals with disabilities who would like to be employed by the State.

I don't really see a down side for either party in that regard. That's really all I had to say, I certainly would be happy to answer any questions, though.

Senator Russell E. Prescott, D. 19: Thank you very much for your testimony. Any questions from the Committee? Senator D'Allesandro.

Senator Lou D'Allesandro, D. 20: Not of this gentleman, but a technical question maybe Mike can answer, Mike Jenkins [Executive Director, Governor's Council on Disabilities].

Mike, what is the Disabled Person's Employment Fund now and is there any money in it? Because in the Senate version of the bill that money lapses into the General Fund...

Michael D. Jenkins: I can't say with 100% surety that I know what you're talking about. I don't think there's a dime in it and I think it has been latent for a number of years. The kind of language for Vocational Rehabilitation for a number of years. The idea is to bring it out of that.

Senator Lou D'Allesandro, D. 20: Okay, so this would just eliminate that as a restricted fund?

Michael D. Jenkins: That's right. The logic, of course, is that, the whole idea behind the Disabilities Act and any other civil rights legislation affecting disability is to not have people with disabilities standing out as special. Incorporate it and blend into the regular personnel system.

Senator Lou D'Allesandro, D. 20: And the new fund you created. Thank you.

Senator Russell E. Prescott, D. 19: Thank you, Mr. Dickinson.

Jeff Dickinson: Thank you. You're welcome. I also have some have written testimony to give to the Members.

Senator Russell E. Prescott, D. 19: Anyone wish to speak on behalf of HB206? Seeing none, I'll close the hearing on HB206.

This Verbatim Transcript Respectfully Submitted By:

Marilyn C. Priest

Attachment I

Granite State

Independent Living

"Promoting Life with Independence for People with Disabilities"

PO Box 7268

Concord, NH 03302-7268

voice/ tty **603-228-9680**

toll-free **800-826-3700**

fax **603-225-3304**

May 16, 2001

Dear Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee:

My name is Jeff Dickinson and I am from Wolfeboro. I am here today both as an employee of Granite State Independent Living and as a person with a disability to speak in favor of passage of HB206-FN-A. This act would establish a mechanism for the creation of an equipment depository and disabled person's employment fund in the department of administrative services. The depository and the fund would be used to provide reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities to allow them to be gainfully employed by the state. For many people with disabilities reasonable accommodations are vital in making it possible for them to be competitively employed.

The most important phrase in the write up of this bill is "reasonable accommodations", with emphasis on the word "reasonable". The vast majority of workplace accommodations needed by people with disabilities are very simple and inexpensive. Very often they entail using an existing material or device and modifying them to meet the needs of the particular situation. The bill lists as examples of accommodations items such as phone adapters and adjustable desks. Simple items. However, many accommodations are simpler than that. A simple ramp one step up into a building, four bricks under the legs of a desk to raise it up so someone with a wheelchair can fit under it, a leather strap attached to a door to make it easier to open from a wheelchair, a telephone headset to allow hands free use. These are just a few examples of the simple types of accommodations most often needed to allow a person with a disability to do the job. In an age of high-tech, reasonable accommodations are often rather low-tech.

It is important that this bill be seen in the context of other wider legal initiatives currently in place and underway to make it easier for people with disabilities to return to work. The Work Incentive Act and the Ticket to Work - Work Incentive Improvement Act, both passed by the federal government in recent years put in place various work incentives that designed to allow people with disabilities to return/enter the workforce. Within the state there currently are initiatives under way to work in concert with the federal legislation to make employment a reasonable option for people with disabilities. This legislation, HB206, will dovetail nicely with these federal and state initiatives.

Finally, HB206 really does set up a win-win situation for both parties involved. The State of New Hampshire will be able to accommodate the needs of qualified employees with disabilities and thereby gain access to an untapped supply of motivated and committed workers. New Hampshire's citizens with disabilities will gain access to the largest employer in the State, thereby having the opportunity to be more self-supporting and less reliant on public benefits.

Thank you for taking the time to consider HB206.

Sincerely,

Jeff Dickinson

Jeff Dickinson
Granite State Independent Living

Speakers

COMMITTEE HEARING ON HB 206

Date: 5/16/01 Place: LOB 104

NAME: JEFF DICKINSON

Business Address: PO Box 7268

City: CONCORD Phone: 228-9680

REPRESENTING: GRANITE STATE INDEPENDENT LIVING

WISH TO SPEAK: YES ✓ NO ___ Time Needed: 2-3 min.

Supporting Bill: ✓ Opposing Bill: ___

PLEASE LEAVE COPY OF ANY PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE CLERK

HB206-FN Senate ED&A Committee Hearing Sign In

APPEARING: IN FAVOR	APPEARING: TO OPPOSE	DATE: May 16, 2001 TIME: 1:15 PM NAME / REPRESENTING	WISH TO SPEAK?
✓		JOHN M. WHITTIER - SPONSOR - ROCKINGHAM 18	✓
✓		MICHAEL D. JENKINS GOV'S COMM. DISABILITY	✓

Testimony

SB 176-FN-A – AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

5/1/01 1028s

2001 SESSION

01-0941
05/09

SENATE BILL ***176-FN-A***

AN ACT establishing an equipment depository and disabled person's employment fund in the department of administrative services.

SPONSORS: Sen. Larsen, Dist 15; Sen. McCarley, Dist 6; Sen. D'Allesandro, Dist 20

COMMITTEE: Public Institutions, Health and Human Services

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes an equipment depository and disabled person's employment fund in the department of administrative services, for purposes of purchasing adaptive equipment for disabled persons. Both the equipment depository and the fund shall be repealed on June 30, 2006.

The bill is a request of the developmental disabilities council, health and human services.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics.***
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~]
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand One

AN ACT establishing an equipment depository and disabled person's employment fund in the department of administrative services.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 New Subdivision; Equipment Depository; Disabled Person's Employment Fund. Amend RSA 21-I by inserting after section 44-d the following new subdivision:

Equipment Depository

21-I:44-e Equipment Depository. There is hereby established an equipment depository within the division of personnel. Moneys contained in the disabled persons' employment fund, established by RSA 21-I:44-f, shall be used to purchase adaptive equipment and accommodations to enable disabled persons to become gainfully employed by the state. The division shall determine the equipment to be purchased, subject to the approval of governor and council. The purchases shall be limited to equipment and services which provide reasonable, and not extraordinary, accommodations to the needs of employees with disabilities such as telephone adapters, adjustable desks, and other like equipment, or such other accommodations which permit employees with disabilities to perform their job tasks efficiently and effectively. The division shall have authority to reissue equipment returned to the depository and to dispose of any equipment that is no longer useful and to deposit any sale proceeds in the fund established by RSA 21-I:44-f.

21-I:44-f Disabled Persons' Employment Fund. There is hereby established a nonlapsing fund to be known as the disabled persons' employment fund to be used solely for the purposes of RSA 21-I:44-e and which shall be continually appropriated to the division of personnel for that purpose. The division, with the approval of governor and council, may accept private donations for deposit in the fund established by this section.

2 Disabled Persons' Employment Fund; Lapse to General Fund. Upon the effective date of section 3 of this act, any moneys remaining in the disabled persons' employment fund shall lapse to the general fund.

3 Repeal. The following are repealed:

I. RSA 21-I:44-e, relative to the equipment depository.

II. RSA 21-I:44-f, relative to the disabled persons' employment fund.

4 Effective Date.

I. Section 3 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2006.

II. The remainder of this act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

LBAO

01-0941
Amended 5/3/01

SB 176 FISCAL NOTE

AN ACT establishing an equipment depository and disabled person's employment fund in the department of administrative services.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Budget Assistant has determined this bill, as amended by the Senate, may increase state restricted revenue and expenditures by an indeterminable amount in FY 2002 and each year thereafter. There will be no fiscal impact on county and local revenue or expenditures.

METHODOLOGY:

This bill establishes an equipment depository within the Division of Personnel and a non-lapsing disabled person's employment fund. The Division is authorized to accept private donations for deposit in the disabled person's employment fund with approval of governor and council. The fund will be used to purchase adaptive equipment and accommodations for the depository to enable disabled persons to become gainfully employed by the State. The Division may sell the contents in the depository when the contents are no longer useful, and deposit the sale proceeds in the newly established fund. Any moneys remaining in the disabled person's employment fund on June 30, 2006 shall lapse to the general fund.

The amount of money deposited into said fund and the equipment purchased for the depository is dependent on private donations, therefor, the Office is unable to determine the exact fiscal impact of this bill at this time.

Committee Report

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SENATE

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

Date: June 4, 2001

THE COMMITTEE ON Executive Departments Administration

to which was referred House Bill 206-FN-A

AN ACT establishing an equipment depository and disabled person's employment fund in the department of administrative services.

VOTE: 4-0

Having considered the same, report the same with the following recommendation that the bill be: **REREFERRED TO COMMITTEE.**

Senator Lou D'Allesandro
For the Committee

HB206 Docket

Next|Prev|Results List|Main|Bill Status

Bill Title: establishing an equipment depository and disabled person's employment fund in the department of administrative services.

Date	Body	Description
1/4/2001	H	Introduced and ref to Labor; HJ15, p173
1/16/2001	H	Copy to Chairman on 1/16/2001 due Early < f>
1/18/2001	H	Hearing Jan 24 10:30 RM306,LOB
1/25/2001	H	Subcom Work Session Jan 31 9:30 RM306,LOB
3/14/2001	H	Maj Report OTP/AM for Mar 22 (vote 14-0;CC)
3/14/2001	H	Prop Comm Am{0118}; HC24, p426
3/22/2001	H	Passed with Am and ref to Finance; HJ26, p508
4/11/2001	H	Fin Maj Report OTP for Apr 18 (vote 21-0;CC)
4/18/2001	H	Passed; HJ39, p1098 + 1178
5/1/2001	S	Introduced and Ref. to Executive Departments & Administration; SJ 11, Pg.169
5/7/2001	S	Hearing; May 16, 2001, Room 104, LOB, 1:15 p.m.; SC23-A
6/6/2001	S	Committee Report; Rereferred to Committee, [06/07/01]; SC29
6/7/2001	S	Rereferred to Committee, MA, VV; SJ 17, Pg.374

Next|Prev|Results List|Main|Bill Status

Docket Abbreviations