



DISABILITY RIGHTS NEW MEXICO

1720 Louisiana Blvd. NE, Suite 204 • Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
TEL/TTY: (505) 256-3100 • FAX: (505) 256-3184
State-wide Toll Free 1-800-432-4682
WEBSITE: www.drnmm.org • EMAIL: info@drnm.org
James Jackson, Executive Director

Promoting and Protecting the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

DISABILITY ISSUES IN THE 2011 LEGISLATURE POST-SESSION REPORT

March 21, 2011

By Jim Jackson, Executive Director
DISABILITY RIGHTS NEW MEXICO

Successful session for disability issues. A wide variety of bills and memorials affecting persons with disabilities passed in this year's legislative session, which ended at noon this past Saturday. Areas of particular successes include:

Education: Bills passed that would prohibit corporal punishment in public schools; limit referrals by schools to police for student misconduct; require schools to report data on suspensions, expulsions, and referrals to juvenile authorities; and require schools to review and offer best practice options for students with autism. Although most of these bills affect all students, the success of these measures in committee hearings and floor debate was largely attributable to their impact on students with disabilities.

Behavioral health: Bills that passed will require training for police officers on interactions and interventions with persons with mental impairments; and require the state to create at least two mental health "safe houses" as alternatives to hospitalization. Memorials that passed will establish a task force to review commitment and mental health treatment guardianship provisions; establish a task force to review jail diversion options; and study the impact of solitary confinement in correctional facilities on those with mental illness and others.

Early intervention: Legislative action in this area increases or eliminates the cap on health insurance coverage for Family/Infant/Toddler services, but also requires that children move from that program into a public school program at the time of their 3rd birthday if their parents want continuing services.

Health care: A bill to establish a health insurance exchange in New Mexico, consistent with the provisions of federal health care reform, was one of the few health-related bills to pass the legislature.

Governor Susana Martinez has until April 8 – 20 days from the end of the session – to sign or veto legislation from this year's session. You can contact the governor to provide input on what you think she should sign or veto, by phone (505-476-2200) or through the internet at this address: http://www.governor.state.nm.us/Contact_the_Governor.aspx. Note that memorials do not require action by the governor; they are effective when passed by the legislature but do not have the force of law. More detail on all of the bills and memorials that passed the session is included below beginning on page 3. A list of those bills that did not pass begins on page 5.

Last minute drama again. With 15 minutes left in the session on Saturday, there appeared to be no hope that the House of Representatives would act on SB 418 (limiting school referrals of student misconduct to the police). The House was mired in debate over critical capital outlay legislation, and the bill was far down on the agenda. Finally, the capital outlay debate ended and House members clamored to get their bills heard in the few remaining minutes. About three minutes before noon, amidst the tumult, Representative Bill O'Neill got recognized by the Speaker, moved for passage of the bill, and it squeaked through on a 33-30 vote. Kudos to Laura Bruening, a parent whose dogged work late in the session got the bill through its House committees and led several House members to urge its last-minute consideration; and to Nicole Kiselicka, an MSW candidate doing an internship with the bill's sponsor, Senator Jerry Ortiz y Pino. *Rep. O'Neill was similarly successful two years ago when he won approval of a package of guardianship improvements on the House floor with about five minutes to go in the session.*

Bills left behind. HB 271, which would have extended the authority of a guardian for up to a year after the death of a protected person in order to make funeral arrangements and otherwise wrap up the person's affairs, passed the House but was held up for some reason in the Senate Judiciary Committee and never got a hearing there. Various proposals to restructure state government, which would have affected some disability agencies, failed to win approval. Other proposals that did not pass included changes to mental health commitment law, tax credit schemes for private schools to serve students with disabilities, and changes to a state law that steers state contracts to certain rehabilitation agencies and individuals with disabilities.

Budget update: About a week before the end of the session, the Senate Finance Committee approved a number of changes to the House version of the state budget bill, HB 2. The House agreed to the Senate's changes, and the bill has now been sent to the governor for action. Governor Martinez can choose sign the bill as is, veto the entire bill, or line-item veto specific language or appropriations. HB 2 includes budget cuts for most state agencies, including DVR, the Commission for the Blind, and the Governor's Commission on Disability. Medicaid remains under-funded by about \$88 million, though potential fund transfers from UNM and slower growth in enrollment may cut that deficit in half.

The key changes made by the Senate to HB 2 included:

- \$300,000 more for civil legal services, which lessens the budget cut to this program
- \$300,000 for deaf-blind services at the Commission for the Deaf
- \$1 million to reduce the DD waiver waiting list – enough to serve around 50 people
- \$500,000 as a one-time appropriation to address a deficit in the FIT program
- \$750,000 additional one-time funding to address a deficit in the DD waiver program, bringing total supplemental funding for the current year to \$3 million.
- \$200,000 in one-time funding to help move the administration of long-term services programs from ALTSD to HSD
- \$65,000 for the annual summer camp for persons with autism
- A **reduction** of \$3 million in supplemental funding for Medicaid for the current year, resulting in a total of \$7 million (rather than \$10 million) to address the current deficit
- Language prohibiting the state from spending more than \$100,000 for expenses associated with the Jackson lawsuit, such as attorney fees, monitors, court experts and consultants.

The chart below shows final funding levels in HB 2 for agencies or programs of interest to the disability community, with a comparison to current year funding. In most cases these figures include applicable federal funding.

<u>Agency/Program</u>	[Amounts in \$ millions and rounded]		[in \$ thousands]
	<u>FY 11 (Current year)</u>	<u>FY 12</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Adult Protective Services (ALTSD)	\$12.76 million	\$12.65 million ¹	\$- 110 thousand
Behavioral Health (Non-Medicaid)	54.97	55.88	+ 910
Brain Injury Advisory Council	0.093	0.087	- 6
Child Protective Services (CYFD)	109.53	111.84	+2,310
Civil Legal Services (state funds)	1.978	1.628	- 350
Comm. for Deaf & Hard of Hearing	3.69	3.83	+ 140
Commission for the Blind	7.697	7.565	- 132
Developmental Disabilities (DOH)	112.405	141.033	+28,628 ²
DDPC Guardianship	3.296	3.77	+ 474
DDPC Consumer Support	0.296	0.296	0
DDPC Council	0.96	0.979	+ 19
DVR Vocational Rehab Services	29.28	25.66	- 3,620
DVR Independent Living services	1.467	1.34	- 127
Governor's Comm. on Disability	1.14	0.967 ¹	- 173
Medicaid (HSD)	3,649.497	3,806.134 ³	+156,637 ²

¹Language in HB 2 directs the governor to find \$2.5 million in savings from the combined budgets of 11 state agencies, including ALTSD and GCD, so these amounts could be reduced by the governor.

²The increase in funding includes replacement of extra federal funding received in the current year, but the increase is still not sufficient to meet current projections for spending in the coming year.

³The amounts shown for Medicaid include staff and administrative expenses. There is also an additional \$6.1 million in state funds in the Medicaid budget, in addition to the amount shown here, which comes from projected savings due to reductions in the film industry tax credit. This additional state money for Medicaid would generate a total of around \$21.5 million when matched with federal funds.

Bills and Memorials That Passed the Legislature

Behavioral Health

- **HB 93** Mental health intervention training. Rep. Ed Sandoval and Sen. David Ulibarri. This bill requires police officer training in crisis intervention, confrontation de-escalation, and appropriate interaction with persons who have mental impairments. It requires forty hours of training at the police academy for new officers, two hours of in-service for existing officers every two years, and one hour of training for dispatchers.
- **HB 432** Regional pilot programs. Rep. Zachary Cook. This bill permits but does not require the Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative to contract with a network of behavioral health providers, in partnership with a risk-based entity owned or controlled by the network, to provide behavioral health services in one or more regions of the state for a period of at least two years.
- **HJM 17** Alternatives to incarceration. Rep. Rick Miera. This memorial calls for a task force of stakeholders to develop strategies to reduce the unnecessary incarceration of persons with mental illness. DRNM and NAMI-NM would be among the members of the task force.
- **HM 45** Mental health law study. Rep. Dennis Kintigh. This memorial calls on the Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative to convene a task force to study issues related to involuntary civil commitment and the authority of treatment guardians, and to make recommendations to interim legislative committees. The task force would include a wide variety of stakeholders in the mental health and criminal justice systems.

- **HM 62** Solitary confinement study. Rep. Eliseo Alcon. Calls for the convening of a group to review the effects of solitary confinement in prison facilities, collect data on the number of persons with mental illness in solitary confinement, describe the conditions of solitary confinement, and make reports and recommendations to an interim legislative committee.
- **SB 175** Choice of MH Counselors. Sen. Bernadette Sanchez. This bill amends the part of the Insurance Code that protects the right of an insured to choose their own provider within the limits imposed by the insurance plan, by adding “professional clinical mental health counselors” to the list of practitioners. The provision does not apply to health maintenance organizations (HMOs).
- **SB 417** Native American suicide prevention. Sen. Lynda Lovejoy. This bill directs the Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative to establish a state-wide clearinghouse to provide culturally appropriate suicide prevention and related services, and three local Native American youth suicide prevention programs, contingent on available funds.
- **SB 438** Safe House Act. Sen. Jerry Ortiz y Pino. This bill requires HSD to establish behavioral health safe houses in urban and rural areas for persons in crisis, to be staffed with peer counselors and others. It also creates a fund to support additional safe houses. There is no appropriation in the bill, so the houses would have to be funded from existing resources.
- **SB 450** Regional pilot programs. Sen. Mary Kay Papen. This bill permits the Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative to contract with a regional network of behavioral health providers. This bill is a duplicate of HB 432 (see above).
- **SM 39** Support federal Excellence in Mental Health bill. Sen. Howie Morales. Calls on the state’s Congressional delegation to work to have this federal proposal reintroduced in the new Congress, and to support it.
- **SM 40** Solitary Confinement. Sen. Mary Kay Papen. Calls for the convening of a group to review the use and effects of solitary confinement in prison facilities in New Mexico. This bill is a duplicate of HM 62 (see above).

Developmental Disabilities/Early Intervention

- **HJM 16** Value and dignity of persons with developmental disabilities. Rep. Rick Miera and Sen. Tim Keller. This memorial calls on the governor and the legislature to recognize and respect the value and dignity of persons with developmental disabilities.
- **HM 76** Study CDD programs. Rep. Danice Picraux. This memorial calls on the Center on Development and Disabilities at UNM to do a financial and legal review of its programs. It appears that this memorial was introduced and passed in error, since the sponsor withdrew an earlier identical memorial and introduced a replacement, HM 82, which called for CDD to consider ways to expand its services for adults with autism. However, HM 76 was passed instead of HM 82.
- **SB 297** Remove limits to early childhood insurance coverage. Sen. Jerry Ortiz y Pino. Current law requires most state-regulated health insurance policies in New Mexico to cover the cost of early childhood services to children up to three years old with developmental disabilities, up to an annual limit of \$3,500 worth of services. This bill, as amended, eliminates the annual cap on coverage for insurance policies issued through group and HMO health plans and raises the annual cap to \$10,000 for non-group policies.
- **SB 330** FIT program placements. Sen. Cindy Nava. This bill requires children who are enrolled in a Family Infant Toddler program for 0-3 year olds regulated by the Department of Health to move into a public school early intervention program when the child reaches three years of age, if the parents want services to continue. Currently, such children can continue in a FIT program until the end of the school year in which they turn three. The change takes effect on July 1, 2012.

Education

- **HB 172** Prohibiting corporal punishment. Rep Rick Miera. This bill requires all public school boards, including charter schools, to adopt policies prohibiting the use of corporal punishment.
- **HB 321** Public school data reporting. Rep. James Roger Madalena. This bill requires the Public Education Department's data system to accommodate information on suspensions or expulsions and referrals to juvenile authorities by public and charter schools, with data by gender, race/ethnicity, special education status, etc. It would also add family members and advocates to the group that helps plan and oversee data collection from the schools.
- **SB 314** Autism evaluation and services. Sen. Clinton Harden. This bill requires schools to consider a variety of potential appropriate educational interventions for children with autism when developing individual educational plans for them.
- **SB 418** Limiting school referrals to police. Sen. Jerry Ortiz y Pino. This bill prohibits school districts from automatically referring all acts of petty misconduct or petty misdemeanors to law enforcement agencies. It requires school districts to enter into agreements with law enforcement agencies about what conduct will be referred; develop policies that offer alternatives to suspension and expulsion; and report data annually to the PED concerning the number of students arrested, cited or referred to CYFD juvenile authorities, by age, race, gender, and special education eligibility category (if applicable). The bill takes effect on July 1, 2012.

Health Care

- **HB 373** Financial impact of Medicaid changes. Rep. Rhonda King. This bill requires the Secretary of HSD to submit a report describing the fiscal impact of any proposed significant changes to the Medicaid state plan or any waivers of Medicaid requirements requested of the federal government, 60 days prior to submission or as soon as practicable.
- **SB 38/SB 370** Health Insurance Exchange. Sen. Dede Feldman/ Sen. George Munoz. These bills were combined into a committee substitute. The new bill establishes a health insurance exchange program in New Mexico to fulfill the requirements of federal health care reform. In this version, the board is weighted toward members of the current Medical Insurance Pool and the Health Insurance Alliance.
- **SJM 1** Health care reform work group. Sen. Dede Feldman. This memorial calls for continuation of the health care reform work group that was established last year to assist the state in preparing for and implementing the provisions of federal health care reform.

Other

SB 146 Uniform Probate Code Amendments. Sen. William Payne. This package of amendments to the guardianship provisions of the Probate Code clarifies which state would have jurisdiction to address guardianship issues when the principal parties reside in different states.

SB 286 Access aisle markings. Sen. Jerry Ortiz y Pino. This bill requires the access aisle next to certain accessible ("handicap") parking spaces to be more clearly marked as a no-parking area.

Bills That Failed to Pass the Legislature

Behavioral Health

- **HB 497** Limiting DA role in MH commitments. Rep. Dennis Kintigh. This bill designated DOH and ALTSD, rather than district attorneys (as under current law), to receive reports and consider whether to pursue involuntary civil commitment of persons with mental illness.
- **HB 498** Guilty But Mentally Ill. Rep. Dennis Kintigh. This bill re-instated the plea or verdict of “guilty but mentally ill”, which was repealed last year.
- **HB 499** Commitment of mentally ill and dangerous individuals. Rep. Dennis Kintigh. This bill would have dramatically altered the current criteria for involuntary commitment and the conditions for confinement, allowing commitment for those found to be mentally ill and “dangerous to others”.
- **HB 559** Mental health treatment guardianship amendments. Rep. Dennis Kintigh. This bill made a number of changes to the procedure for appointment of a treatment guardian and to the authority of the treatment guardian.
- **HJM 23** Task force for children. Rep. Danice Picraux. This memorial called for a task force to develop recommendations on how to encourage parents, social workers, therapists and others to support children in school, and reduce aggressive behaviors and the need for clinical intervention.
- **SB 21** End managed care in behavioral health. Sen. Jerry Ortiz y Pino and Rep. Antonio Lujan. This bill deleted the current requirement that the state contract with one or more managed care entities to administer state behavioral health services.
- **SB 539** DA to pursue extended MH commitments. Sen. Jerry Ortiz y Pino. Under this bill, the District Attorney would have had the exclusive responsibility for pursuing all extended mental health commitments, which can be sought after an individual has been taken to a mental health evaluation facility if a physician or mental health facility determines that an extended commitment is needed.
- **SB 557** Evaluation of Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative. Sen. Jerry Ortiz y Pino. This bill would have established a sub-committee of an interim legislative committee to review the collaborative and the state mental health system and make recommendations for improvements.

Brain Injury

- **HB 91** Reductions in fund balances. Rep. Lucky Varela. Among other transfers, this bill would have transferred \$300,000 from the Brain Injury Fund to the state’s general fund.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing

- **SB 485** Deaf-blind services funding. Sen. Nancy Rodriguez. Appropriated \$300,000 to the NM Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons to serve deaf and deaf-blind persons. *This funding was included in HB 2.*
- **SB 488** Sign language program. Sen. Nancy Rodriguez. Appropriated \$50,000 to the Higher Education Department for a sign language interpreter program at Santa Fe Community College.

Developmental Disabilities

- **HB 243** Therapeutic horseback riding. Rep. Candy Ezzell. Appropriated \$75,000 to DFA for a therapeutic horseback riding program in Dexter, NM.
- **HJM 13** Review of CDD programs. Rep. Danice Picraux. Called on the Center on Development and Disabilities at UNM to do a financial and legal review of its various programs.
- **SB 494** Community living. Sen. Nancy Rodriguez. Appropriated \$500,000 to DFA for community living and behavioral supports for persons with disabilities in northern New Mexico.
- **SB 531** CYFD attorney fees for DD services. Sen. Rod Adair. Prohibited payment of attorneys and expert witness fees by CYFD, HSD, DVR and other agencies in the case of ACLU v. CYFD, and appropriated any savings to DOH to reduce the waiting list for the DD waiver program.

Education

- **HB 21 & HB 100** Ending “social promotions”. This bill required that children who, upon completion of 3rd grade, do not meet reading proficiency standards would have to be retained and repeat 3rd grade rather than be promoted to 4th grade. The bill exempted children in special education, for whom decisions about reading assessments and grade promotions are made by the IEP team. The bill was not as clear as it might have been in requiring that children who are retained due to a reading deficiency be assessed for a possible disability and/or a need for special education services. DRNM encouraged an amendment that would have addressed that concern but it was not adopted.
- **HB 510** Tax credits for special education scholarships. Rep. Ray Begaye. This bill was identical to SB 398 (see below).
- **SB 142** Ancillary program units. Sen. Cindy Nava. This bill limited the number of “ancillary services” units that public schools could generate under the school funding formula, based on the number of children in the district and the number in special education programs, subject to waiver for good cause by the PED. Ancillary services typically include occupational, physical and speech therapy but may include other services.
- **SB 192** Special education amendments. Sen. Lynda Lovejoy and Rep. Mimi Stewart. This was a package of technical amendments to state special education law that would more closely align state definitions and requirements with the provisions of the federal IDEA. The bill also explicitly authorized programs and services for children with developmental delay
- **SB 319** Prohibiting corporal punishment. Sen. Cindy Nava. This bill prohibited corporal punishment in public schools and was identical to HB 172, which passed as noted above.
- **SB 398** Special needs student scholarships. Sen. Jerry Ortiz y Pino. This bill provided tax credits for contributions to organizations that would provide scholarships to families of special needs students who send them to private schools. DRNM had many concerns about this bill.
- **SJM 37** Early childhood/public school coordination. Sen. Cindy Nava. Asked the Legislative Education Study Committee to work with the Public Education Department to review the coordination between early childhood programs and public school special education programs.

Government Restructuring

- **HB 66** Administrative services by DFA. Rep. Lucky Varela. Required the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) to provide budgeting and administrative services for all state agencies with fewer than 20 employees, such as the DD Planning Council and the Governor’s Commission on Disability, rather than having those functions handled in-house at each agency.
- **HB 88** State agency sunsets. Rep. Paul Bandy and Sen. Lynda Lovejoy. This bill applied “sunset” dates to a variety of boards, commissions, and agencies, including the DD Planning Council, the Behavioral Health Planning Council, the Commission for the Blind, the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, the Civil Legal Services Commission, and others.
- **HB 94** Health Care Financing Agency. Rep. Danice Picraux. This bill created a new state agency to administer Medicaid (including the CoLTS managed long-term care program and the Medically Fragile waiver now administered at DOH), behavioral health and other programs.
- **HB 189** Transfer ALTSD programs to HSD. Rep. Al Park. This bill eliminated ALTSD and transferred all of its programs and personnel to the Human Services Department.
- **HB 570** Transfer ALTSD programs to HSD and CYFD. Rep. Bob Wooley. This bill also eliminated ALTSD, moving the CoLTS, brain injury, Mi Via and PACE programs to HSD, and moving all other ALTSD programs to the Children, Youth and Families Department.
- **SB 15** Health Policy and Financing Agency. Sen. Dede Feldman. This bill created a new state agency to include the Health Policy Commission, Medicaid, behavioral health, long-term services (including CoLTS) now housed at ALTSD, the medically fragile waiver now at DOH, and other programs. It also restructured two of the legislature’s interim committees.
- **SB 67/SB 104** Administrative Hearings. Sen. John Ryan/ Sen. Tim Eichenberg. These bills were combined in a substitute bill that created a new government entity that would employ the hearing officers who act as judges in administrative appeals of decisions made by Medicaid, DVR, the DD division, etc., rather than having that function handled by the individual agencies.

- **SB 158** Repeal certain boards and commissions. Sen. Lynda Lovejoy and Rep. Paul Bandy. The original version of this bill would have eliminated the Governor’s Commission on Disability and the Brain Injury Advisory Council, along with many other state boards and commissions, and transferred their functions to other state agencies. GCD and the BIAC were later dropped from the bill.
- **SB 162** Health Administration and Finance Agency. Sen. Linda Lopez. This created a new agency for health policy as well as Medicaid, behavioral health, long-term services, and other programs.

Health Care

- **HB 33** Health Insurance Exchange. Rep. Danice Picraux and Sen. Dede Feldman. Established a state health insurance exchange consistent with federal health care reform. A similar bill, SB 38, did pass the legislature.
- **HB 493** Health care bill of rights. Rep. Al Park. The “Katie Faith Martinez Patients’ Bill of Rights Act” recognized a variety of rights for all health care patients, such as treatment with respect, privacy, receiving information, confidentiality, consenting to or refusing treatment, access to interpreter services if needed, etc. *A memorial (HM 80) asking the Health Policy Commission to study how to promote the rights of patients did pass the House.*
- **HB 584** Health insurance exchange. Rep. Terry McMillan. This was another bill to establish a health insurance exchange, which took a more limited approach.
- **HJM 9** Amendments to Affordable Care Act. Rep. Mimi Stewart. This memorial asked NM’s Congressional delegation to support changing the federal health care reform law to move up the date when states may ask for permission to pursue alternate approaches to expanding health coverage.
- **HJM 50** School-based Medicaid. Rep. Mimi Stewart. This memorial asked an interim legislative committee to look at ways to expand and improve the school-based Medicaid program.
- **SB 22** Health care provider protection. Sen. Jerry Ortiz y Pino. This bill established basic protections for health care providers in their relationships with managed care organizations.
- **SB 206** Eliminate Medicaid managed care. Sen. Jerry Ortiz y Pino. This bill required HSD to provide Medicaid, the Children’s Health Insurance Program, and the State Coverage Insurance program through contracts with providers rather than through managed care companies.
- **SB 497** Managed Care Ombudsman. Sen. Jerry Ortiz y Pino. This bill created a managed health care ombudsman program to assist providers and consumers with problems with HMOs.
- **SB 536** Drug price controls. Sen. Tim Jennings. This bill limited co-pays for specialty prescription drugs, for which many insurers charge a much higher rate for than any other medication.

Self-Determination

- **HB 105** Electronic Voter Registration. Rep. Eleanor Chavez. This bill allowed people to register to vote on line, and authorized a link of their registration information to their driver’s license in the MVD data base for the purpose of confirming identity.
- **HB 229** Parental notification act. Rep. Alonzo Baldonado. Identical to SB 230 (see below).
- **HB 271** Extend guardianship powers. Rep. Bill O’Neill. This bill would have extended certain specific powers of a guardian for up to one year after the death of a protected person, in order to make funeral arrangements, wrap up the person’s affairs, and report to the court. At present, the guardian’s authority automatically ends upon the death of a protected person.
- **SB 125** Limitations on driver’s licenses. Sen. Peter Wirth. The bill set up increasingly shorter periods between license renewals once drivers get to be 75 years old. It also required testing for reflexes, reaction times, and coordination for all drivers when renewing licenses.
- **SB 230** Parental notification act. Sen. William Sharer. This bill required notice to the parents of a minor child, or to the guardian or conservator of an adult woman found to be “incompetent”, prior to the performance of an abortion, unless a court exempts the woman from the notification requirement. DRNM had a number of concerns about this bill.
- **SB 340** Permanent absentee ballot requests. Sen. Jerry Ortiz y Pino and Rep. James Smith. This bill allowed county clerks to maintain a list of voters who would automatically receive a request for an absentee ballot prior to each election. To get on such a list, the registered voter would have to be either over 65, blind, or have a physical disability.

Other

- **HB 399** Restroom Access Act. Rep. Tom Anderson. This bill required retail stores to let a customer use the employees-only restroom, under certain conditions, if the customer had documentation of one of the medical conditions covered by the bill.
- **HB 431** Motor vehicle registration fee exemption. Rep. Miguel Garcia. Under this bill, persons with disabilities whose annual income is no more than \$15,000 would have been exempt from the motor vehicle registration fee for one automobile that they own.
- **HJR 24** Property tax exemption. Rep. Miguel Garcia. This proposed constitutional amendment would have exempted \$2,000 of a home's assessed value from property tax if the home is owned by a person who is "100% permanently disabled" and whose annual income is \$15,000 or less.
- **SB 65** Fees to Disability Fund. Sen. Phil Griego. This bill added \$5 to all vehicle registration fees, \$4 of which would go to the "Disability Fund" administered by the Governor's Commission on Disability. This would have generated about \$8 million per year to GCD.
- **SB 205** Protection of genetic information in employment. Sen. Cisco McSorley. This bill established protections for employees related to the collection and use of genetic information by employers.
- **SB 334** Adult residential provider licensing. Sen. Tim Jennings. This bill required owners and operators of residential facilities for seniors or persons with disabilities to provide extensive information to the state agency licensing the facility, and directed the state not to license any facility whose owner or operator had been involved in criminal activity, financial misdeeds, etc.
- **SB 416** Tax break for residential autism facilities. Sen. Clint Harden. This bill exempted from gross receipts taxes some of the payments received by for-profit residential treatment programs for children with autism, such as Camelot.
- **SB 517** Motor vehicle registration fee exemption. Sen. Linda Lopez. Identical to HB 431, above.
- **SB 566** Purchasing from persons with disabilities. Sen. Mark Boitano. This bill required each state agency and local government entity to adopt a policy addressing how it would procure services from persons with disabilities, and establish targets such as a number of contracts, a dollar value or percentage of contracts, etc. The bill also amended the State Use Act to make it discretionary, rather than mandatory, to go through the State Use council when procuring any services.
- **SM 72** Mi Via study group. Sen. Jerry Ortiz y Pino. This memorial asked HSD to convene a stakeholders group to review the Mi Via program and develop recommendations about it.

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS REPORT

State Agencies

ALTSD	Aging and Long Term Services Department
CYFD	Children, Youth and Families Department
DDPC	Developmental Disabilities Planning Council
DFA	Department of Finance and Administration
DOH	Department of Health
GCD	Governor's Commission on Disability
HSD	Human Services Department
PED	Public Education Department

Other

CoLTS	Coordination of Long Term Services (Medicaid managed long term care program)
FIT	Family, Infant, Toddler program (early intervention services)