

## Department of Planning and Budget 2004 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB 798

|                        |  |                                     |                                    |
|------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>House of Origin</b> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced | <input type="checkbox"/> Substitute | <input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed |
| <b>Second House</b>    | <input type="checkbox"/> In Committee          | <input type="checkbox"/> Substitute | <input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled  |

**2. Patron:** Petersen

**3. Committee:** Commerce and Labor

**4. Title:** Telecommunications; telephonic reading services.

**5. Summary/Purpose:** This bill authorizes funding for the operation of telephonic reading services through the assessments already being received for the telecommunications relay service. "Telephonic reading services" means audio information provided by telephone to the blind and visually impaired through a nationally available, multi-state service center to registered readers in all parts of the Commonwealth, including the interstate acquisition and distribution of daily newspapers and other information. The Department for the Blind and Visually Impaired is the state agency responsible for the administration and operation of telephonic reading services.

**6. No Fiscal Impact.**

**7. Budget amendment necessary:** No.

**8. Fiscal implications:** The cost to operate the only nationally available, multi-state service center available for telephonic reading services (NEWSLINE®) is approximately \$40,000 per year. State Corporation Commission staff have indicated that funding this service will not have a significant impact on the telecommunications relay service fund.

**9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:** Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired; State Corporation Commission.

**10. Technical amendment necessary:** No.

**11. Other comments:** None.

**Date:** 01/19/04 / jlv

**Document:** G:\04-06\Efis\Dbv\Hb798.Doc Janet Vogelgesang

cc: Secretary of Health and Human Resources