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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-FIFTH
SESSION

HOUSE FILE No. **725**

February 8, 2007

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to human services; providing assistive technology for people with
1.3 disabilities; requiring the commissioner to undertake a statewide study; requiring
1.4 reports; appropriating money.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. **ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY STUDY AND REPORT.**

1.7 Subdivision 1. **Study.** (a) During the biennium ending June 30, 2009, the Council
1.8 on Disability shall facilitate a statewide study of the assistive technology needs of
1.9 people with disabling conditions, and seniors. As part of the study, the council shall
1.10 identify community-based service providers, state agencies, and other entities involved in
1.11 providing assistive technology supports. The study shall also examine the creation of an
1.12 assistive technology pretax savings account to allow disabled persons to set aside pretax
1.13 and unearned income to purchase assistive technology devices, equipment, and services.

1.14 (b) The council shall provide oversight and direction to the Minnesota Regions
1.15 Assistive Technology Collaborative during the biennium ending June 30, 2009.

1.16 Subd. 2. **Report.** The council shall present to the chairs of the house and senate
1.17 committees having jurisdiction over human services, by January 1, 2009, a report of the
1.18 findings of the study, including proposed legislation creating a statewide comprehensive
1.19 plan to meet the assistive technology needs of people with disabling conditions and
1.20 seniors. The statewide plan must include steps to coordinate and streamline assistive
1.21 technology services and the creation of an assistive technology pretax savings account.

1.22 Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATIONS.**

2.1 (a) \$200,000 is appropriated for the biennium ending June 30, 2009, from the
2.2 general fund to the commissioner of human services for purposes of the study in section 1.

2.3 (b) \$300,000 in fiscal year 2008 and \$300,000 in fiscal year 2009 is appropriated
2.4 from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for the purposes of providing
2.5 financial support to the Minnesota Regions Assistive Technology Collaborative.

2.6 (c) \$200,000 is appropriated in fiscal year 2008 from the general fund to the
2.7 commissioner of administration for the purposes of completing the state's remaining share
2.8 of the local match required to access the federal Technology Related Assistance Act for
2.9 Persons with Disabilities Title III, Alternative Financing Project 2003 grant award which
2.10 provides microloans to individuals for the purpose of acquiring assistive technology
2.11 devices and services.