

1872

Sponsor(s): Representatives Blake, Veloria, Chase, Santos and Hatfield

Brief Description: Providing for linked deposit loans for assistive technology.

HB 1872 - DIGEST

(SUBSTITUTED FOR - SEE 1ST SUB)

Finds that current public and private funding sources are inadequate, or not suited, to meet the assistive technology needs of many sectors of the population and that it is necessary for the state to establish a program to create alternative financing arrangements to help individuals with disabilities acquire the assistive technology they need to achieve their potential in education, employment, independent living, transportation, recreation, and community life. Access to such technology can play a vital role in achieving high quality of life.

Finds that many small businesses and nonprofit organizations do not have the financial resources they need to make their places of business and business activities accessible to and usable by clients and employees with disabilities. Many small businesses and nonprofit entities also lack the financing they need to acquire the assistive devices and services that enable them to hire and retain employees with disabilities.

Declares that low interest loans and other alternative financing arrangements are needed to help small businesses, nonprofits, and other qualified entities purchase the assistive devices and services and make the program and building access modifications needed to fully include individuals with disabilities.