

Revised based on amendments adopted through April 9, 2013.

FISCAL NOTE
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST ESTIMATE

ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES (See narrative for political subdivision estimates)				
	FY 2013-14		FY 2014-15	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
GENERAL FUNDS	85,000			
CASH FUNDS				
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS	85,000			

Any Fiscal Notes received from state agencies and political subdivisions are attached following the Legislative Fiscal Analyst Estimate.

This bill makes several changes to statutory provisions addressing the area of child welfare. The bill requires case plans for children who remain in their homes to that the services are to prevent out-of-home placements. On or before July 1, 2013, the Department of Health and Human Services is to apply for reimbursement under Title IV-E for reimbursable costs for the Nebraska Juvenile Justice Delivery Project. The federal funds are to be deposited into the Probation Program Cash Fund for expenses incurred by the Office of Probation Administration for the project. The staff of the Children’s Commission is placed under the Foster Care Review Board for administrative purposes. The Commission is to hire a policy analyst. On or before July 1, 2013, the Department of Health and Human Services is to develop a policy for reimbursement of all allowable foster care maintenance costs under Title IV-E. HHS is to adopt new foster care licensing regulations that minimize the mandates for non-safety issues and provides alternatives to address non-safety issues regarding housing and provide assistance to overcome licensing barriers, especially in child-specific relative and kinship placements. Entities seeking to contract with the state must prove evidence of financial stability. The Department shall implement a formal grievance process for families involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice system.

The staff and operating expenses of the Children’s Commission is moved from HHS to the Foster Care Review Office. The current appropriation of \$100,000 would be moved from the HHS budget to the FCRO budget. The Commission is to hire a policy analyst. Based on the salary and estimated benefits for a Research Analyst II, the cost would be \$85,000.

The bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to claim federal Title IV-E for eligible children in the Juvenile Services Delivery Project. Both the Supreme Court and HHS have indicated that there may be some additional federal funding that could be captured, but that it would not be a significant amount at this time.

On or before July 1, 2013, the Department is to establish a policy to capture all allowable foster care maintenance costs under Title IV-E. The recently conducted Medicaid Crossover Analysis pointed out that there are costs not currently being captured. Implementation of a policy to capture these costs for claiming purposes would increase federal funds and decrease General Funds, but the extent is not known at this time.

Following an adjudication hearing, state wards are to be evaluated for eligibility for Medicaid and the report to the court shall include an updated determination of child’s eligibility.