

FISCAL NOTE
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST ESTIMATE

Revised based on amendments adopted through 3-23-17

ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES (See narrative for political subdivision estimates)				
	FY 2017-18		FY 2018-19	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
GENERAL FUNDS	(\$120,000)		(\$120,000)	
CASH FUNDS	\$120,000	\$120,000	120,000	\$120,000
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS	0	\$120,000	0	\$120,000

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

This bill changes alternative response from a pilot program to statewide and extends the authorized use of alternative response to December 31, 2020 from July 1, 2017. Alternative response allows the Department of Health and Human Services to provide supports and services to families who are the subject of a child abuse and neglect investigation and who meet certain screening requirements.

The bill as amended institutes a fee for central registry checks conducted by the Department of Health and Human Services. The fee shall be set by the Department between five and ten dollars. Requesters who are required to obtain checks by statute, rule or regulation or contract with the Department is exempt. This bill creates the Children and Juvenile Data Feasibility Study Advisory Group. The Advisory Group is to report to the Legislature on October 1 of 2017 and 2018. The latter report is the results of the feasibility study to establish a data warehouse by July 1, 2019. The group and related subcommittees sunset on December 31, 2019. This bill makes several changes to the Nebraska Strengthening Families Act. Annual normalcy plans would be required of child care institutions and juvenile facilities with contracts with the Department of Health and Human Services. The Department of Health and Human Services would be required to train foster parents on recognizing human trafficking.

Approximately 120,000 child and adult abuse and neglect central registry background checks are conducted annually. Approximately 90 percent would be exempt. The Department indicates the maximum fee of \$10 would be charged to those required to pay the fee. The fee would generate \$120,000 annually and would be used to offset the cost to conduct the checks, which is approximately \$305,000 annually.

The cost of a data warehouse is unknown until the plan is complete. Implementation of the plan is dependent upon the Legislature appropriating the funds which would not be until the following biennium.

LB₍₁₎ 225 AM611 AM731 FISCAL NOTE

2017

ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION

State Agency or Political Subdivision Name:(2) Department of Health and Human Services

Prepared by: (3) Karen Gatherer

Date Prepared: 3-23-17

Phone: (5) 471-6719

	FY 2017-2018		FY 2018-2019	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
GENERAL FUNDS	(\$120,000)		(\$120,000)	
CASH FUNDS	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$120,000
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS	\$0	\$120,000	\$0	\$120,000

Return by date specified or 72 hours prior to public hearing, whichever is earlier.

Explanation of Estimate:

LB 0225 as amended by AM 611 and AM 731 gives the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) the authority to establish and charge a reasonable fee to recover expenses in carrying out central registry records checks. The fee shall be at least \$5.00 and not more than \$10.00. A fee may not be charged for requests that are required because of a statute, a rule or regulation of the department, or a contract with the department.

Based on a sample review of central registry requests, it is estimated that 90 percent of the requests meet this criteria. The remaining 10 percent, or approximately 12,000 requests will be charged a fee. DHHS will offset current expenses of \$120,000 GF by charging the maximum allowable fee of \$10.00 for each Central Registry check. Currently there are 6 staff at a Staff Assistant II classification and one Supervisor conducting central registry checks at an annual cost of approximately \$305,743. Examples of groups that would be required to pay the \$10 fee would be schools, community service groups, churches, etc.

MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE

PERSONAL SERVICES:	POSITION TITLE	NUMBER OF POSITIONS		2017-2018	2018-2019
		17-18	18-19	EXPENDITURES	EXPENDITURES
Benefits.....					
Operating.....					
Travel.....					
Capital Outlay.....					
Aid.....					
Capital Improvements.....					
TOTAL.....				\$0	\$0