

FISCAL NOTE
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST ESTIMATE

ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES (See narrative for political subdivision estimates)				
	FY 2021-22		FY 2022-23	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
GENERAL FUNDS				
CASH FUNDS				
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS	See Below		See Below	

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

This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to notify within 24 hours all interested parties of an emergency placement change. Interested parties include the child's siblings who are known to the department, the child's current school in which the child is enrolled and the new school where the child will be enrolled.

The bill refers to placement changes. It is unclear if this only refers to children in the system who experience placement disruptions or also includes initial removal. Clarification is needed.

Currently placement changes are made within 72 hours of a change. This bill moves that timeframe up to 24 hours and does not include an exception for weekends or holiday. Because the bill does not make this exclusion, some court order cases would arrive late in the days before holidays and weekends. Information provided by the department shows there were 501 initial removals on either a Friday or day before a holiday. There were 242 placement disruptions in the same timeframe.

The department's fiscal note shows the need for three FTE, two resource developers and one case aide, to enter and send the information on either holidays or weekends. The number of annual hours for three FTE is 4,800 which would equate to six and half hours of work to execute the notification per emergency placement change after a court order that occurs either before a weekend or holiday. This figure assumes initial removal is included in the definition of placement change.

That the notification is required after a court order indicates that information on interested parties, except for the new school if there is change, would likely be in the system for placement disruptions. Assembling the information for an initial removal likely would not be done prior to filing of the court order, however, and would require additional time. It seems more practical that overtime would be required to meet the accelerated timeframe; rather than three additional FTE. The request for three FTE is excessive for a change from 72 hours to 24 and does not appear net out the work that is already required to be done in the current 72 hour timeframe.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES STATE BUDGET DIVISION: REVIEW OF AGENCY & POLT. SUB. RESPONSE			
LB: 143	AM:	AGENCY/POLT. SUB: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services	
REVIEWED BY: Ann Linneman	DATE: 1-19-2021	PHONE: (402) 471-4180	
COMMENTS: The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services' analysis and estimate of fiscal impact to the department appears reasonable.			

ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION

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

Prepared by: (3) Mike Michalski

Date Prepared 1-19-2021

Phone: (5) 471-6719

	<u>FY 2021-2022</u>		<u>FY 2022-2023</u>	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
GENERAL FUNDS	\$ 65,274		\$ 87,032	
CASH FUNDS				
FEDERAL FUNDS	\$ 65,274		\$ 87,033	
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS	\$ 130,548	\$ 0	\$ 174,065	\$ 0

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

Explanation of Estimate:

LB 143 would require the Department of Health and Human Services, associations or individuals to file a report and notice within 24 hours after a court approved emergency placement change of a juvenile to all parties of interest, including the juvenile’s siblings known to the Department. If the child is of school age, the school where the child is enrolled or the new school where the child will be enrolled must be notified with 24 hours.

Currently, the requirement is for workers is to enter the change in placement into NFOCUS within 72 hours, and regulations allow for up to seven days to notify the school of a change in school districts. Currently, if a placement occurred on a Friday night, the Department would not send the notice to the court until the next working day which would be the following Monday. The 24-hour notice requirement will require additional staffing on the weekends and holidays to meet this timeframe.

The Department would require two additional Resource Developers and one Case Aide by September 2021. The total cost of additional staff would be \$130,548 for SFY 2022 and \$174,065 for SFY 2023. Fifty percent of the cost can be federally funded. The rest of the cost would be paid by the state.

MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE

PERSONAL SERVICES:	POSITION TITLE	NUMBER OF POSITIONS		2021-2022	2022-2023
		21-22	22-23	EXPENDITURES	EXPENDITURES
	DHHS Resource Developer	1.5	2	\$ 55,857	\$ 74,476
	DHHS Resource Development Supervisor	0.8	1	\$ 19,356	\$ 25,809
Benefits.....				\$ 26,144	\$ 34,859
Operating.....				\$ 29,191	\$ 38,921
Travel.....					
Capital Outlay.....					
Aid.....					
Capital Improvements.....					
TOTAL.....				\$ 130,548	\$ 174,065