

Incorporate AM 1514

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST ESTIMATE**

<b>ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES (See narrative for political subdivision estimates)</b>				
	<b>FY 2023-24</b>		<b>FY 2024-25</b>	
	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>REVENUE</b>
GENERAL FUNDS		(\$2,057,769)		(\$2,057,769)
CASH FUNDS	\$6,175	\$2,034,869		\$2,000,000
FEDERAL FUNDS	(\$15,075)		(\$22,612)	
OTHER FUNDS				
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>(\$8,900)</b>	<b>(\$22,900)</b>	<b>(\$22,612)</b>	<b>(\$22,900)</b>

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

AM 1514 amends Sec. 48-145 to direct 100% of assessments charged to self-insured employers to the Workers Compensation Court Cash Fund. The assessments are comprised of a formula applied to prospective loss costs of self-insured employers. Currently, one-third of the calculated amount goes to the Workers Compensation Court Cash Fund, and two-thirds goes to the General Fund. AM 1514 directs all of the assessments to the Workers Compensation Court Cash Fund, resulting in a \$2,034,869 decrease in General Fund revenue, and a commensurate cash fund revenue increase of \$2,034,869 increase.

Committee AM 1330 included a striking provision of the original LB 191 in its entirety, and also includes provisions of LB 267, LB 460, LB 639, LB 671, LB 666, LB 427, and amended provisions of LB 249.

With the original provisions of LB 191 now stricken, no additional cost is projected for the Workers Compensation Court related to increased workload to review First Report requests.

The provisions still in effect for the remaining bills are found in the following sections of AM 1330:

Sections 1-5:

LB 267 identifies the Critical Infrastructure Utility Worker Protection Act. The act provides for the prioritization of resources for the protection of critical infrastructure utility workers during any civil defense emergency. The prioritization of resources includes: access to personal protective equipment, medical screening, testing, preventative health services, medical treatments, and vaccines. No fiscal impact as per the original fiscal note for LB 460.

Sections 6-7:

LB 460 relates to mental health injuries or mental illnesses for Nebraska's first responders pursuant to the Nebraska Workers Compensation Act. The bill provides for reimbursement by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) for the cost of mental health examinations and resilience training to the extent not reimbursed by the first responder's employer. The reimbursement rate for mental health examinations would be established by the Critical Incident Stress Management Program, whose lead agency is the DHHS. Presently, rates are only set for resilience training. No fiscal impact as per the original fiscal note for LB 460.

Sections 8-9:

LB 639 amends provisions of the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act relating to rules and regulations, case progression standards, and summons, and eliminates requirements to distribute copies of certain materials. No fiscal impact as per the original fiscal note for LB 639.

Section 10:

LB 671 amends the Nebraska Training and Support Cast Fund to increase the purposes for which the fund can be used. Currently, the Nebraska Worker Training and Support Cash Fund is used to provide for a variety of recruitment and training opportunities that: expand the Nebraska workforce. With the provisions of LB 671, the fund can also be used for the retention of existing employees of Nebraska Businesses. No fiscal impact as per the original fiscal note for LB 671.

Sections 11-13:

LB 666 amends provisions to Employment Security Law, allowing employers the ability to choose their preferred method of document delivery. It also extends the deadline for employers to submit voluntary contributions to the Nebraska Department of Labor from January 10<sup>th</sup> to February 20<sup>th</sup>. The original fiscal note shows a reduction in Federal Funds spending of (\$15,075) in FY24 and (\$22,612) in FY25. These estimates assume that 50% of employers currently being notified by mail will request electronic delivery when available.

Section 14:

LB 427 amends The Nebraska Contractor Registration Act, by striking the definition of “nonresident contractor” from the Contractor Registration Act. Out-of-state contractors will no longer be required to pay a one-time \$25 fee when initially registering. Out-of-state contractors will also no longer be required to submit a \$25 fee for each contract they receive of at least \$10,000. According to the original fiscal note, the Department of Labor estimated a cost of \$6,175 in Cash Funds to eliminate the requirements for the fee for the registration of each nonresident contractor. The Fiscal Office believes that the agency will be able to absorb this cost. Under current statute, those fees are credited to the General Fund, and the reduction in General Fund revenues is estimated at (\$22,900) per year.

Sections 18-20:

LB 249 makes several changes to the Rural Workforce Housing Investment Act. It would allow housing projects that receive federal or state low-income housing tax credits, community development block grants, HOME funds, funds from the National Housing Trust Fund, or funds from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund to qualify for Rural Workforce Housing Investment Act grants. It also expands the scope of eligible activities to include extension of sewer or water service in support of workforce housing. With AM 1330, the provisions of LB 249 have been amended to remove the creation of a transfer of \$20,000,000 from the General Fund to the Rural Workforce Housing Investment Fund, which appeared in section 3 of the original LB 249.