

FISCAL NOTE
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST ESTIMATE

ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES (See narrative for political subdivision estimates)				
	FY 2024-25		FY 2025-26	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
GENERAL FUNDS				
CASH FUNDS				
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS				

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

LB 25 is the Prison Population Reduction and Property Tax Relief Act.

The act outlines several findings and objectives identified by the Legislature.

The bill lists findings that high incarceration rates in Nebraska significantly strain the state's finances, diverting resources that could otherwise be used to lessen property taxes. Programs aimed at early parole and second chance relief for long-term inmates are identified as effective means to reduce incarceration rates without necessitating substantial initial state investments. The savings generated from these reductions are intended to be reallocated towards property tax relief.

The bill looks to reduce the prison population through cost-effective programs such as the use of alternative sentencing options such as probation, community service, and house arrest over imprisonment, where appropriate, to further decrease incarceration rates.

The Nebraska Department of Correctional Services (NDCS) will produce annual reports on the cost savings achieved through the early parole discharge and second chance relief programs, starting by July 1, 2026. Additionally, the Reentry Continuity Advisory Board will oversee the implementation and effectiveness of these programs, providing annual reports and recommendations to the Legislature.

Beginning in the fiscal year 2026-27, the Legislature intends to annually transfer the equivalent of the identified savings from the General Fund to the Property Tax Credit Cash Fund, ensuring ongoing support for property tax relief.

The Early Parole Discharge Program specifies criteria for eligible parolees, including successful completion of a specified period in a community corrections facility and on parole, attainment of a high school diploma or equivalent, maintenance of steady employment or stable living conditions, and an absence of major disciplinary violations. The Department of Correctional Services will screen eligible offenders, and the Board of Parole will review and make recommendations. The Board of Pardons will then consider these recommendations and provide feedback for denied cases, outlining steps for improvement.

The Second Chance Relief Program targets individuals serving long-term or life sentences, providing an opportunity for sentence commutation if they demonstrate rehabilitation and readiness for safe release. Offenders under 26 at the time of their offense can apply after 25 years, and those 26 and older can apply after 30 years. The Department of Correctional Services will identify and list eligible offenders for the Board of Parole, which will assess rehabilitation and risk, incorporating community leaders to address public safety concerns. The Board of Pardons will review commutation recommendations and provide guidance for denied applications.

For individuals granted a sentence reduction, detailed reentry plans will be developed, including job placement, housing support, mental health services, mentorship, and community support. Restorative justice programs will facilitate opportunities for offenders to reconcile with victims and the community, while regular check-ins and continuous monitoring will ensure compliance with parole conditions.

The Supreme Court states that there is no fiscal impact. The agency mentions that the number of community service organizations is limited in some areas of Nebraska.

It should be noted that other agencies potentially affected by LB 25 have not yet responded to contribute their input to the fiscal note, but it is reasonable to assume there may be some administrative costs.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES STATE BUDGET DIVISION: REVIEW OF AGENCY & POLT. SUB. RESPONSE			
LB:	25	AM:	AGENCY/POLT. SUB: Supreme Court
REVIEWED BY:	Jacob Leaver	DATE:	7/29/2024
		PHONE:	(402) 471-4173
COMMENTS: Concur with the Supreme Court's estimate of no fiscal impact to the agency as a result of LB 25.			

Please complete ALL (5) blanks in the first three lines.

2024

LB⁽¹⁾ 25, Special Session

FISCAL NOTE

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: ⁽²⁾ 05 Supreme Court

Prepared by: ⁽³⁾ Eric Asboe Date Prepared: ⁽⁴⁾ 7/26/2024 Phone: ⁽⁵⁾ 402-326-9215

ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION

	<u>FY 2024-25</u>		<u>FY 2025-26</u>	
	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
GENERAL FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
CASH FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
FEDERAL FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
OTHER FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL FUNDS	=====	=====	=====	=====

Explanation of Estimate:

No direct fiscal impact from Section 5 regarding documentation.

Note: The number of community service organizations is limited in some areas of Nebraska.

BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE

Personal Services:

<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</u>		<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
	<u>24-25</u>	<u>25-26</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Benefits.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Travel.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Capital outlay.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Aid.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Capital improvements.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL.....	_____	_____	_____	_____