

Revised to reflect AM1691

FISCAL NOTE
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST ESTIMATE

ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES (See narrative for political subdivision estimates)				
	FY 2023-24		FY 2024-25	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
GENERAL FUNDS	\$129,285		\$128,128	
CASH FUNDS				
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS	\$129,285		\$128,128	

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

AM1691 amends LB298 as follows:

Amends §79-101 & adopts the Interstate Mobility Compact.

The compact is to facilitate the mobility of teachers across the member states. Member states are trying to establish a collective regulatory framework that expedites & enhances the ability of teachers to move across state lines & maintain their teaching certificate.

The compact is intended to achieve the following when member states all ratify the same intentions:

- Create a streamlined pathway to licensure mobility for teachers
- Support the relocation of eligible military spouses
- Facilitate & enhance the exchange of licensure, investigate, & disciplinary information between members
- Enhance the power of state & district level education officials to hire qualified, competent teachers by removing the barriers to employing out-of-state teachers
- Support the retention of teachers in the profession by removing the barriers of re-licensure in a new state
- Maintain state sovereignty in the regulation of the teaching profession

The compact will not go into effect until the date on which a tenth member state has enacted the compact into their laws. Withdrawing from the compact occurs six months after the enactment of the repealing of the statute.

AM657 amends LB298 as follows:

The data in the reports will include, but not be limited to, the number of students in each public school in such district:

- Tested for a specific learning disability in the area of reading, including tests that identify characteristics of dyslexia & the results of those tests;
- Identified as having a reading issue, including dyslexia, pursuant to the assessment administered under the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act;
- Identified as having shown growth on the measure used to identify the reading issue.

AM1188 amends LB298 as follows:

On or before December 1, 2024, the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) will develop & distribute a model dress code & grooming policy for schools that facilitates & encourages an inclusive & positive learning environment while complying with any applicable health or safety law, rule, regulation, ordinance, or resolution.

The policy will not:

- Target, disproportionately impact, discriminate, or be applied in a discriminatory manner against any students on the basis of race, religion, sex, disability, or national origin;
- Prohibit a student from wearing attire, including religious attire, natural & protective hairstyles, adornments or other characteristics associated with race, national origin, or religion;
- Require a student's hair be permanently or temporarily altered.

On or before July 1, 2025, the school board of each school district will adopt a written dress code & grooming policy to be implemented at the start of the 2025-26 school year that is consistent with the model policy developed by NDE & may include any other procedures & provisions the school board deems appropriate.

Enforcement of violations of the written dress code & grooming policy will:

- Be treated as minor on the continuum of school rule violations & will not constitute student conduct subject to long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment;
- Not require the student to miss substantial classroom time, instruction time, or school activities;
- Not, under any circumstance, allow an administrator, teacher, other member of the staff, or contractor to permanently or temporarily alter or cut a student's hair.

No student will be disproportionately affected by a dress code or grooming policy enforcement because of the student's gender, race, color, religion, disability or national origin.

LB298 requires the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) to collect data related to dyslexia from the public-school districts on or before July 1 of each year. NDE will then provide a report of the data collected & provide it to the Legislature on or before September 1 of each year.

EXPENDITURES:

NDE estimates the need to add 1 FTE to provide guidance on the testing; handle the reports from the districts & complying the report for the Legislature; & work with the districts on the proper interventions through a 504 plan or an individual education plan (IEP). The FTE's estimated salary/benefits expense for FY2023-24 is \$108,690, operating expenses are \$11,143, & travel expenses are \$9,452. For FY2024-25, the salary/benefits are estimated to increase by 2.09% to \$110,961, operating expenses are \$7,431, & travel expenses are \$9,736.

AM657, AM1188, AM1691 do not change the fiscal impact of LB298.