

FISCAL NOTE
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST ESTIMATE

ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES *				
	FY 2007-08		FY 2008-09	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
GENERAL FUNDS	32,058		29,914	
CASH FUNDS				
FEDERAL FUNDS	32,057		29,914	
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS	64,115		59,828	

*Does not include any impact on political subdivisions. See narrative for political subdivision estimates.

This bill states the intent for the Department of Health and Human Services to apply for a waiver under 42 U.S.C 1396n for payment for caregivers of Medicaid-qualified individuals who are age 65 and older. The waiver would be for a pilot program to begin September 1, 2007 and shall be in one urban and one rural county. The pilot shall terminate on June 30, 2008. A report to the legislature is required not more than 30 days before termination.

Federal Medicaid regulation prohibits payment for personal assistance to legally responsible relatives. In Nebraska, a legally qualified relative is a spouse. It is the intent of this bill that two pilot projects be established to waive this prohibition on paying legally responsible relatives. Waivers require that Medicaid payments in the aggregate be cost neutral. To obtain federal approval, the waiver would have to show that Medicaid expenditures would be the same or lower than without the waiver. To apply and implement the waiver, a program specialist would be needed. The costs would be \$64,115 (32,058 GF and \$32,057 FF) in FY 08. In FY 09 it is assumed the waiver would continue and be available statewide. FY 09 costs would be \$59,828 (\$29,914 GF and FF).

Technical Note: When states apply for a waiver, there are timelines for the approval process. However, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) can halt the process to obtain clarification. The timelines in the bill may or may not be met, since the timeline is controlled by CMS.