

Revised based upon amendments adopted

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

<b>ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES</b> (See narrative for political subdivision estimates)				
	<b>FY 2015-16</b>		<b>FY 2016-17</b>	
	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>REVENUE</b>
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 449 would change provisions governing microloan component of the Business Innovation Act. Existing law provides that at least \$500,000 and not more than \$1,000,000 could be awarded to the microloan component. LB 449 would change the limits to at least \$1,000,000 and not more than \$2,000,000. The division of microloan funding would also be amended. Existing law requires that 70% of the funds be used to distribute microloans not exceeding \$50,000, and that 30% of the funds be used to provide funding to microenterprise development organization for small business technical assistance. LB 449 amend the limits to require that at least 50% of the funding be used for microloans not to exceed \$100,000, and 50% of the funding be used for small business technical assistance. It is estimated that the microloan provisions of LB 449 would not have a significant impact upon the administration of the program by the Department of Economic Development.

LB 449 would also modify existing statutory caps for grant categories under the Business Innovation Act. The existing caps in the planning, prototyping, value-added agriculture, commercialization, and academic research categories would be removed and replaced with language allowing the Department of Economic Development (DED) to allocate up to \$4,000,000 per category. There would be no change to the total amount of Business Innovation Act grant funding, but it would allow DED greater flexibility to modify category allocations within the existing appropriation. LB 449 would also modify language regarding the definition of federal grant program, increases the maximum prototype grant limit and clarifies language regarding matching fund requirements. The revisions would not impact the total program budget.

LB 449 would amend provisions of law governing the Nebraska Tourism Commission. It would: 1) Establish that the salary of the executive director be fixed by the commission; 2) Modify language creating the State Visitor's Promotion Fund to allow marketing grants be paid from the fund; 3) Direct the commission to develop a process for the review and approval of marketing grants; 4) Establish the Tourism Conference Cash Fund to receive fees from any conference or event held by the commission; and 5) Establish legislative intent that state agencies operating grant programs intended to encourage tourism and provide support for tourism attractions consult with the Nebraska Tourism Commission. It is estimated that these provisions could be carried out by the Nebraska Tourism Commission using existing staff and budgetary resources.

Select File amendments adopted to LB 449 would permit the Nebraska Tourism Commission to mark significant tourism attractions in Nebraska. The Commission would be permitted to appoint a special committee to research and investigate the tourism attractions that should be designated by highway tourism markers, and to receive gifts and donations to pay for tourism markers. The Department of Roads would be directed to erect and maintain highway tourism markers, but because the Nebraska Tourism Commission would be directed to purchase and to preserve, replace or modify highway tourism markers, it is estimated that the Department of Roads expenses would be reimbursed by the Nebraska Tourism Commission. Because the provisions regarding highway tourism markers is permissive, the potential impact to the agency would depend upon the decisions of the Commission. There could be additional cash fund expenditures to carry out the program and cash fund revenue from payments received from outside sources to pay for tourism matters. The amount of increased expenses and revenue cannot be estimated at this time.