

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

<b>ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES</b> (See narrative for political subdivision estimates)				
	<b>FY 2021-22</b>		<b>FY 2022-23</b>	
	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>REVENUE</b>
GENERAL FUNDS				
CASH FUNDS				
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS	See below			

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

LB160 relates to the Nebraska Hospital-Medical Liability Act (NHMA). The bill proposes increasing the caps on medical malpractice liability for all healthcare providers, effective December 31, 2021, in addition to adding provisions relating to proof of financial responsibility and to address the Excess Liability Fund requisites. The bill proposes a loss limit increase from \$250,000 to \$10,000,000 and an increase from \$100,000 to \$5,000,000 for a claim arising from a single occurrence under the NHMA.

It is anticipated that this bill would increase the insurance premiums paid by all healthcare providers, insurers, and, indirectly, all consumers of healthcare insurance. However, the actual cost cannot be determined with the known information.

The University of Nebraska estimates an increase in premiums of \$950,000 for FY22 and \$1,200,000 for FY23. It is assumed that the increased premiums would be borne by the healthcare insurance consumers; however, the actual impact to consumers is indeterminable.

The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) makes the assumption that the increase in cost incurred by providers would be passed along to healthcare insurance consumers thus increasing the cost of the State of Nebraska’s medical plan premiums. The increased cost of dental and vision plan would be wholly paid by the state employees. Due to that the cost to healthcare providers as proposed by this bill and the resulting impact to healthcare plans cannot be determined, there is an unknown fiscal impact.

Additionally, one of the Department of Insurance’s duties is to review and approve all rate and policy filings. It is anticipated that all existing medical malpractice insurance policies will be replaced due to the increased caps as outlined in the bill. Insurers will need to collect data prior to submitting the new rate and policy to the Department for review. As this bill is retroactive to January 1, 2021, it is anticipated that the increased volume and timing will necessitate the Department to utilize outside contractors to assist with the review and approval process. The Department’s estimated cost to retain such consultants is approximately \$24,000.

The Department of Insurance also notes that the Nebraska Hospital-Medical Liability Act Excess Liability Fund will see increased revenues and expenditures as surcharge payments in and claim payments out will likely be increased. The revenues and expenditures cannot be calculated at this time; however, it is anticipated that should largely balance out as the Department sets surcharge rates for participants in the fund annually that are intended to cover anticipated costs. The surcharge rate is not intended to maintain a cash balance in the fund, and as such the increases in revenues and expenditures should offset each other over time.

There is no basis to disagree with these estimates.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES STATE BUDGET DIVISION: REVIEW OF AGENCY & POLT. SUB. RESPONSE		
LB: 160	AM:	AGENCY/POLT. SUB: University of Nebraska
REVIEWED BY: Neil Sullivan	DATE: 1/26/2021	PHONE: (402) 471-4179
COMMENTS: No basis to disagree with the University of Nebraska assessment of fiscal impact from LB 160. Funds other than General Funds may be available.		

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES STATE BUDGET DIVISION: REVIEW OF AGENCY & POLT. SUB. RESPONSE		
LB: 160	AM:	AGENCY/POLT. SUB: Department of Administrative Services
REVIEWED BY: Neil Sullivan	DATE: 2/2/2021	PHONE: (402) 471-4179
COMMENTS: The Department of Administrative Services assessment of indeterminate enterprise fiscal impact from LB 160 appears reasonable.		

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES STATE BUDGET DIVISION: REVIEW OF AGENCY & POLT. SUB. RESPONSE		
LB: 160	AM:	AGENCY/POLT. SUB: Department of Insurance
REVIEWED BY: Neil Sullivan	DATE: 2/10/2021	PHONE: (402) 471-4179
COMMENTS: The Department of Insurance assessment of agency impact and indeterminate Excess Liability Fund impact from LB 160 appears reasonable.		

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES STATE BUDGET DIVISION: REVIEW OF AGENCY & POLT. SUB. RESPONSE		
LB: 160	AM:	AGENCY/POLT. SUB: Nebraska Association of County Officials
REVIEWED BY: Neil Sullivan	DATE: 1/19/2021	PHONE: (402) 471-4179
COMMENTS: The Nebraska Association of County Officials assessment of no fiscal impact from LB 160 appears reasonable. County medical facilities electing to participate in the Excess Liability Fund could experience an increase in required contributions.		

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

**2021**

**LB<sup>(1)</sup> 160**

**FISCAL NOTE**

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: <sup>(2)</sup> University of Nebraska

Prepared by: <sup>(3)</sup> Michael Justus Date Prepared: <sup>(4)</sup> January 14, 2021 Phone: <sup>(5)</sup> 402-472-7109

**ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION**

	<u>FY 2021-22</u>		<u>FY 2022-23</u>	
	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
GENERAL FUNDS	<u>950,000</u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>1,200,000</u>	<u>                    </u>
CASH FUNDS	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
FEDERAL FUNDS	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
OTHER FUNDS	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u><b>950,000</b></u>	<u><b>                    </b></u>	<u><b>1,200,000</b></u>	<u><b>                    </b></u>

**Explanation of Estimate:**

The bill would increase provider coverage from \$500,000 to \$5,000,000, and the loss limit would increase from \$2,250,000 to \$10,000,000. Based on our discussions with our insurance provider we anticipate an increase in premiums of about \$950,000.

**BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE**

**Personal Services:**

<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</u>		<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>
	<u>21-22</u>	<u>22-23</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
Benefits.....	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
Operating.....	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>950,000</u>	<u>1,200,000</u>
Travel.....	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
Capital outlay.....	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
Aid.....	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
Capital improvements.....	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<u><b>                    </b></u>	<u><b>                    </b></u>	<u><b>950,000</b></u>	<u><b>1,200,000</b></u>

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

2021

LB<sup>(1)</sup> 160

FISCAL NOTE

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: <sup>(2)</sup> Department of Administrative Services (DAS) - Employee Wellness & Benefits

Prepared by: <sup>(3)</sup> Jennifer Norris Date Prepared: <sup>(4)</sup> 1/25/2021 Phone: <sup>(5)</sup> 402/471-4443

ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION

	FY 2020-21		FY 2021-22	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
GENERAL FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
CASH FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
FEDERAL FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
REVOLVING FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>See below</u>	<u>See below</u>	<u>See below</u>	<u>See below</u>

Explanation of Estimate:

LB 160 increases the caps on medical malpractice liability in the Nebraska Hospital-Medical Liability Act and changes provisions relating to proof of financial responsibility and the Excess Liability Fund.

It is unknown what the exact financial impact will be to providers, however, it is anticipated that the cost of insurance to such medical providers will increase and such increase in costs would be passed along and increase the cost of services being provided as a result of these changes. Any increases in service costs would impact the amount of claims paid by State's Health Plans, requiring increases in premiums.

The medical plans for the State of Nebraska are self-insured. The medical plan premiums are paid by the State of Nebraska (79%) and employees (21%).

The table below summarizes the estimated impact by fund type of any premium increase. The allocation by fund type is based on a four (4) year [2017 -2020] average of health insurance premium expenditures.

Fund Type	Percentage by Fund Type
General Fund	51%
Cash Fund	26%
Federal Fund	19%
Revolving Fund	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Any impact to a covered provider in a Dental or Vision Plan could result in increased costs and increased premiums. The Vision and Dental plan premiums are wholly paid by State of Nebraska employees.

The State of Nebraska – Employee Wellness & Benefits does not purchase malpractice liability insurance.

There is an unknown fiscal impact for LB160 as introduced.

**BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE**

**Personal Services:**

<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</u>		<u>2020-21</u> <u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>2021-22</u> <u>EXPENDITURES</u>
	<u>20-21</u>	<u>21-22</u>		
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Benefits.....				
Operating.....				
Travel.....				
Capital outlay.....				
Aid.....				
Capital improvements.....				
TOTAL.....				

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

**2021**

**LB<sup>(1)</sup> 160**

**FISCAL NOTE**

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: <sup>(2)</sup> Insurance

Prepared by: <sup>(3)</sup> Thomas Green II Date Prepared: <sup>(4)</sup> 2/8/2021 Phone: <sup>(5)</sup> 402-471-4650

**ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION**

	<u>FY 2021-22</u>		<u>FY 2022-23</u>	
	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
GENERAL FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
CASH FUNDS	24,000	_____	_____	_____
FEDERAL FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
OTHER FUNDS	*	*	*	*
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>24,000</u>	_____	_____	_____

**Explanation of Estimate:**

LB160 increases the medical malpractice caps, effective January 1, 2021. Because of the retroactive nature of the statute, all existing malpractice policies will need to be replaced immediately upon passage of the bill. Because medical malpractice policies must be approved by the Department before they can be used, the change in the caps outlined in the bill will require each insurer to file both new rates and policies incorporating the new caps with the Department of Insurance. Because of the substantial increase in the caps brought about by this bill, it is anticipated that all existing med mal policies will be replaced even if the bill were not retroactive. The volume and timing will necessitate the Department retaining the services of outside consultants to assist with the review and approval of all rate and policy filings. Due to the immediacy brought about by the retroactive start date, it is anticipated that an amount above the regular rates charged by the consultants for their services will have to be paid in order to pull them away from assignments or contracted work that may already be underway at the time. The Department's best estimate of costs required to retain such consultants is approximately \$24,000.

It should also be pointed out that this bill will almost certainly result in an increase in medical costs to both the state and its citizens, but we cannot reasonably estimate the amount of such increase at this time.

\* In addition to the above paragraphs, the Nebraska Hospital-Medical Liability Act Excess Liability Fund will see increased revenues and expenditures. By increasing the layer of primary coverage required by participants and simultaneously increasing the overall claims cap, surcharge payments in and claim payments out will likely be increased. While incalculable at this time, the revenue and expenditure increases should largely balance out, as the Department of Insurance annually sets surcharge rates for participants in the fund that are intended only to cover expected costs. The surcharge rate is not intended to maintain a cash balance in the fund, and as such over time the increases in revenues and expenditures should offset one another.

**BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE**

**Personal Services:**

<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</u>		<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>
	<u>21-22</u>	<u>22-23</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>

<b>Benefits</b> .....				
<b>Operating</b> .....				
<b>Travel</b> .....				
<b>Capital outlay</b> .....				
<b>Aid</b> .....				
<b>Capital improvements</b> .....				
<b>TOTAL</b> .....				

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

**2021**

**LB<sup>(1)</sup> 160**

**FISCAL NOTE**

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: <sup>(2)</sup> Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO)

Prepared by: <sup>(3)</sup> Elaine Menzel Date Prepared: <sup>(4)</sup> 1/11/2021 Phone: <sup>(5)</sup> 402.434.5660

**ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION**

	<u>FY 2021-22</u>		<u>FY 2022-23</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 fiscal impact.

**BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE**

**Personal Services:**

<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</u>		<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>
	<u>21-22</u>	<u>22-23</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Benefits.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Travel.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Capital outlay.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Aid.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Capital improvements.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL.....	_____	_____	_____	_____