

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	See below		See below	
CASH FUNDS				
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS	See below		See below	

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

LB516 amends §79-2,143 & §79-3106 to increase school safety across Nebraska.

Regionally focused school security specialists will be hired as employees within the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) & will be placed to assist schools & to increase the availability of training, provide tailored technical support for the unique needs of each region, & serve as a central point of contact for school districts. The new employees will be placed under the direction of the state school security director.

Beginning in FY2024-25, the School Safety & Security Reporting System Act will be funded using General Funds. The Commissioner of Education will create & administer a grant program to the districts for security-related infrastructure projects. The projects can include, but are not limited to, surveillance equipment, door-locking systems, & double-entry doors for school buildings. Depending on available funds, NDE will provide a grant to any district that applies for a grant for use on qualifying projects. The amount of the grant will be a proportionate share of the total amount appropriated for these grants. A district's share will be based on the percentage of students attending the district according to the most recent enrollment data collected by NDE.

NDE will create & administer a grant program to provide funding to hire mental health practitioners & school psychologists to provide access to mental & behavioral health supports to students at school & within the community.

A local public health department or an educational service unit (ESU) can apply to NDE for a grant to hire a mental health practitioner or school psychologist to provide mental & behavioral health supports to students & serve as a liaison to the districts within the area served by the local public health department or ESU.

TECHINCAL NOTE:

LB516 does not clarify regions nor the number of school security specialists that NDE is to hire.

EXPENDITURES:

LB516 states the intent for the Legislature to appropriate fifteen million dollars from the General Fund to NDE to administer the School Safety & Security Reporting System Act grant program.

LB516 states the intent for the Legislature to appropriate five million dollars from the General Fund to NDE to mental & behavioral health grant program.

NDE estimates that each School Security Specialist hired would have a total cost \$117,268 for FY23-24 & \$115,832 for FY24-25.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES STATE BUDGET DIVISION: REVIEW OF AGENCY & POLT. SUB. RESPONSE

LB: 516 AM: AGENCY/POLT. SUB: Nebraska Department of Education

REVIEWED BY: Gary Bush DATE: 1/25/23 PHONE: (402) 471-4161

COMMENTS: Unable to provide comment on the fiscal impact for regional specialists as no detail was provided. The amounts suggested for one employee appears to be reasonable.

Agree with the agency estimate for the School Safety and Security Reporting Act. The agency requested funding for this activity as part of the agency 2023-2025 biennial budget request and indicated the cost to be \$1.8 million for the two years of the budget.

Agree with the agency that the bill provides intent to appropriate \$20 million General Fund dollars for two new grant programs. Disagree with the agency that this funding would be for more than one year as the bill does not provide for continuing funding.

No basis to disagree with the agency statement that administrating the new grants can be done using existing resources of the agency.

Technical Note: The current appropriation language in the bill is not sufficient to create an appropriation. The fiscal impact assessment assumes an accompanying A-bill articulating appropriation in accordance with §49-804.

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

2023

LB⁽¹⁾ 516

FISCAL NOTE

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: ⁽²⁾ Education

Prepared by: ⁽³⁾ Lane Carr Date Prepared: ⁽⁴⁾ 1.31.23 Phone: ⁽⁵⁾ 4024193012

ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION

	<u>FY 2023-24</u>		<u>FY 2024-25</u>	
	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
GENERAL FUNDS	<u>>\$20,000,000</u>	_____	<u>>\$20,870,000</u>	_____
CASH FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
FEDERAL FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
OTHER FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>>\$20,000,000</u></u>	<u><u>0</u></u>	<u><u>>\$20,870,000</u></u>	<u><u>0</u></u>

Explanation of Estimate:

LB516 aims to bolster school safety in a several ways:

- Hiring regional specialists to support school safety under the direction of the school safety director. The bill does not designate how many regional specialists will be needed. However, total wages, benefits, and expenses for one Education Specialist II would be \$117,268 in 2023-24, and \$115,832 in 2024-25.
- Funding the School Safety and Security Reporting Act beginning in 2024-25. The annual cost associated with Safe2Help is \$870,000 per year.
- Creation of a \$15 million grant program to public schools for security related infrastructure programs.
- Creation of a \$5 million grant for mental health practitioners embedded within districts, local public health departments, or educational service units. The grant program would be administered by the NDE.

BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE

Personal Services:

<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</u>		<u>2023-24</u> <u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>2024-25</u> <u>EXPENDITURES</u>
	<u>23-24</u>	<u>24-25</u>		
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Benefits.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Travel.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Capital outlay.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Aid.....	_____	_____	<u>\$20,000,000</u>	<u>\$20,870,000</u>
Capital improvements.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL.....	_____	_____	<u>\$20,000,000</u>	<u>\$20,870,000</u>