

**FISCAL NOTE**  
 LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST ESTIMATE

| ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES (See narrative for political subdivision estimates) |         |      |         |           |       |
|--|---------|------|---------|-----------|-------|
| EXPENDITURES   | GENERAL | CASH | FEDERAL | REVOLVING | TOTAL |
| FY2025-2026  | 0       | 0    | 0       | 0         | 0     |
| FY2026-2027  | 0       | 0    | 0       | 0         | 0     |
| FY2027-2028  | 0       | 0    | 0       | 0         | 0     |
| FY2028-2029  | 0       | 0    | 0       | 0         | 0     |
| REVENUE  | GENERAL | CASH | FEDERAL | REVOLVING | TOTAL |
| FY2025-2026  | 0       | 0    | 0       | 0         | 0     |
| FY2026-2027  | 0       | 0    | 0       | 0         | 0     |
| FY2027-2028  | 0       | 0    | 0       | 0         | 0     |
| FY2028-2029  | 0       | 0    | 0       | 0         | 0     |

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

This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to authorize crisis payments of up to \$800 per year and more in extenuating circumstances in the federally authorized Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). DHHS indicates the current maximum crisis assistance limit is \$500 per year and in Federal Fiscal Year 2025 less than 8% of the 2,845 households that received LIHEAP received crisis assistance. The administrative costs to increase the crisis assistance limit can be absorbed within agency appropriations. There is no additional aid cost; however, increased crisis assistance payments could reduce funds available at the end of the program year for supplemental heating or cooling assistance.

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

LB: 1033 AM: AGENCY/POLT. SUB: Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services

REVIEWED BY: Ann Linneman DATE: 2-18-2026 PHONE: (402) 471-4180

COMMENTS: Concur with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services' assessment of fiscal impact.

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

State Agency or Political Subdivision Name:(2) Department of Health and Human Services

Prepared by: (3) John Meals

Date Prepared 2-18-2026

Phone: (5) 471-6719

|                      | <u>FY 2026-2027</u> |         | <u>FY 2027-2028</u> |         |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------|---------------------|---------|
|                      | EXPENDITURES        | REVENUE | EXPENDITURES        | REVENUE |
| <b>GENERAL FUNDS</b> |                     |         |                     |         |
| <b>CASH FUNDS</b>    |                     |         |                     |         |
| <b>FEDERAL FUNDS</b> |                     |         |                     |         |
| <b>OTHER FUNDS</b>   |                     |         |                     |         |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>   |                     |         |                     |         |
|                      | \$0                 | \$0     | \$0                 | \$0     |

Return by date specified 72 hours prior to public hearing, whichever is earlier.

**Explanation of Estimate:**

LB1033 would require the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to authorize Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) crisis assistance payments, as necessary, for no more than \$800.00 per program year unless there are extenuating circumstances.

The Office of Economic Assistance (OEA) would need to revise the existing regulations, guidance documents, the department’s eligibility system, Nebraska Family Online Client User System (NFOCUS), and other eligibility staff training materials to reflect the increase in the maximum amount of crisis assistance from \$500.00 per program year to \$800.00 per program year. Additionally, OEA must also revise the LIHEAP Model Plan and send the revised plan to the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) for approval. There would be no additional fiscal impact with these updates as current staff will absorb it.

In Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025, OEA provided crisis assistance to 2,845 households; of those, only 226 households received assistance exceeding \$500.00. Increasing the crisis assistance maximum to \$800.00 would not result in additional costs for the department, as current regulations already allow OEA to authorize payments exceeding \$500.00 in extenuating circumstances. However, increasing the maximum LIHEAP crisis assistance amount would likely result in a larger share of program funds being utilized for crisis payments. Currently, crisis payments account for approximately 3% of total LIHEAP funds. Increasing the maximum benefit could reduce the funds available at the end of the program year for supplemental heating or cooling assistance for eligible households.

**MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE**

**PERSONAL SERVICES:**

| POSITION TITLE            | NUMBER OF POSITIONS |       | 2026-2027    | 2027-2028    |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-------|--------------|--------------|
|                           | 26-27               | 27-28 | EXPENDITURES | EXPENDITURES |
| Benefits.....             |                     |       |              |              |
| Operating.....            |                     |       |              |              |
| Travel.....               |                     |       |              |              |
| Capital Outlay.....       |                     |       |              |              |
| Aid.....                  |                     |       |              |              |
| Capital Improvements..... |                     |       |              |              |
| <b>TOTAL.....</b>         |                     |       | <b>\$0</b>   | <b>\$0</b>   |