

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

<b>ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES (See narrative for political subdivision estimates)</b>				
	<b>FY 2025-26</b>		<b>FY 2026-27</b>	
	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>REVENUE</b>
GENERAL FUNDS	See below		See below	
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 298 amends provisions related to the Legislature, including the following:

- Renames statutory provisions related to the Office of Public Counsel as the Office of Public Counsel Act;
- Includes confidentiality provisions for the Office of Public Counsel;
- Clarifies that the Executive Board may issue subpoenas at the request of the Public Counsel in certain circumstances;
- Creates the Division of Legislative Oversight (division) within the Legislature and provides for appointment of the director;
- Includes responsibilities for the division, including Legislative Audit, the Office of Inspector General of Child Welfare, and the Office of Inspector General of the Nebraska Correctional System, and clarifies that the staff will be housed within the division;
- Creates the Legislative Oversight Committee (committee) as a special committee and identifies membership and responsibilities and eliminates provisions and references related to the Legislative Performance Audit Committee;
- Clarifies responsibilities, confidentiality, access to records, reporting, and subpoena power of the committee at the request of the Inspector General for the Office of Inspector General of Child Welfare;
- Clarifies responsibilities, confidentiality, access to records, reporting, and subpoena power of the committee at the request of the Inspector General for the Office of Inspector General of the Nebraska Correctional System;
- Clarifies subpoena power of the Executive Board or Appropriations Committee at the request of the Director of Research or Legislative Fiscal Analyst, respectively;
- Amends provisions related to the Legislative Audit Office to clarify operation under the Director of Legislative Oversight and the committee;
- Clarifies subpoena power of the committee at the request of the Legislative Auditor;
- Outright repeals several definition sections in the Office of Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare Act, and replaces certain definitions;
- Outright repeals section 50-421, which creates the office of Legislative Audit as the office is now created within the division in section 86 of the bill;
- Outright repeals section 47-906, which relates to access of information for the Office of Inspector General of the Nebraska Correctional System.

The Legislative Council estimates costs related to an additional division director within the agency, if the position is a newly created FTE. Costs range from \$15,800-\$208,024 in FY2025-26 and from \$16,272-\$210,609 in FY2026-27, depending on the staffing pattern applied. All appropriations related to the Office of Inspector General of Child Welfare and the Office of Inspector General of the Nebraska Correctional System, including staff and operating expenses, would be transferred from the Office of Public Counsel budget program to the budget program for the newly created division. There is no net fiscal impact related to the transfer of appropriations.

The Supreme Court estimates no fiscal impact. Department of Health and Human Services estimates 6 hours of staff time will be needed to update the agency’s standard operating procedures, but that the costs for such time can be absorbed within their current resources. There is no basis to disagree with these estimates.

The Nebraska Department of Correctional Services estimates the need for 1 FTE Legislative Coordinator. However, we disagree that this additional position is necessary because the changes in the bill do not increase the responsibilities of the agency related to data or review of reports sufficiently to necessitate the need for additional full-time personnel.

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

LB: 298 AM: AGENCY/POLT. SUB: Legislative Council

REVIEWED BY: Ann Linneman DATE: 1-28-2025 PHONE: (402) 471-4180

COMMENTS: No basis to disagree with the Legislative Council's assessment of fiscal impact.

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

LB: 298 AM: AGENCY/POLT. SUB: Nebraska Supreme Court

REVIEWED BY: Ann Linneman DATE: 2-12-2025 PHONE: (402) 471-4180

COMMENTS: Concur with the Nebraska Supreme Court's assessment of no fiscal impact.

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

LB: 298 AM: AGENCY/POLT. SUB: Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services

REVIEWED BY: Ann Linneman DATE: 2-12-2025 PHONE: (402) 471-4180

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

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

LB: 298 AM: AGENCY/POLT. SUB: Nebraska Department of Correctional Services

REVIEWED BY: Ann Linneman DATE: 2-6-2025 PHONE: (402) 471-4180

COMMENTS: Concur with the Nebraska Department of Correctional 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 2-11-25

Phone: (5) 471-6719

	<u>FY 2025-2026</u>		<u>FY 2026-2027</u>	
	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
<b>GENERAL FUNDS</b>				
<b>CASH FUNDS</b>				
<b>FEDERAL FUNDS</b>				
<b>OTHER FUNDS</b>				
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

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

**Explanation of Estimate:**

LB298 creates the Division of Legislative Oversight within the legislative counsel of the Legislature and moves the Office of Inspector General out of the Office of Public Counsel. The bill establishes the Legislative Oversight Committee to perform the duties of the Legislative Performance Audit Act, the Office of Inspector General of Child Welfare Act, and the Office of Inspector General of the Nebraska Corrections Systems Act.

Children and Family Services (CFS) will need to update policies and procedures to reflect the cases that must be reported to the Office. This may increase the number of cases that the Office will request CFS send records for. This will also likely increase the cases that CFS will complete a critical incident review according to internal policy. This would not be required by the bill but is noted as it is tied to our internal policy for reviews. To update the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) will require the following staff hours: Program Specialist (3 hours), Program Administrator (2 hours), and 2 Deputy Directors (1 hour). Existing staff would absorb these hours.

**MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE**

PERSONAL SERVICES:	NUMBER OF POSITIONS		2025-2026 EXPENDITURES	2026-2027 EXPENDITURES
	26-26	26-27		
Benefits.....				
Operating.....				
Travel.....				
Capital Outlay.....				
Aid.....				
Capital Improvements.....				
<b>TOTAL.....</b>			<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

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

**2025**

**LB<sup>(1)</sup> 298**

**FISCAL NOTE**

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

Prepared by: <sup>(3)</sup> Lisa Stanton Date Prepared: <sup>(4)</sup> 01/21/2025 Phone: <sup>(5)</sup> (402)479-5702

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

	<u>FY 2025-26</u>		<u>FY 2026-27</u>	
	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
GENERAL FUNDS	<u>\$81,972</u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>\$81,539</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>	<b><u>\$81,972</u></b>	<b><u>                    </u></b>	<b><u>\$81,539</u></b>	<b><u>                    </u></b>

**Explanation of Estimate:**

LB298 provides for the Division of Legislative Oversight, the Director of Legislative Oversight, and the Legislative Oversight Committee and changes provisions relating to the Inspector General of the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.

To research, gather information, and otherwise coordinate the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services response to requests for information from the Division of Legislative Oversight, the Director of Legislative Oversight, the Legislative Oversight Committee and the Inspector General of the agency, the NDCS would need a Legislative Coordinator or similar position. The cost to add this position is estimated to be \$81,972 in FY26 and \$81,539 in FY27. This amount includes \$56,793 in FY26 and \$58,497 in FY27 for PSL, \$19,890 in FY26 and \$20,474 in FY27 for benefits, and \$5,289 in FY26 and \$2,568 in FY27 for other services and equipment.

**BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE**

**Personal Services:**

<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</u>		<u>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>
	<u>25-26</u>	<u>26-27</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
Legislative Coordinator	<u>1.0</u>	<u>1.0</u>	<u>\$56,793</u>	<u>\$58,497</u>
Benefits.....			<u>\$19,890</u>	<u>\$20,474</u>
Operating.....			<u>\$5,289</u>	<u>\$2,568</u>
Travel.....			<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
Capital outlay.....			<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
Aid.....			<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
Capital improvements.....			<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
<b>TOTAL.....</b>			<b><u>\$81,972</u></b>	<b><u>\$81,539</u></b>

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

**2025**

**LB<sup>(1)</sup> 298**

**FISCAL NOTE**

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

Prepared by: <sup>(3)</sup> Shelley Reed Date Prepared: <sup>(4)</sup> 01/27/2025 Phone: <sup>(5)</sup> 402-471-2226

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

	<u>FY 2025-26</u>		<u>FY 2026-27</u>	
	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
GENERAL FUNDS	15,800 - 208,024		16,272 - 210,609	
CASH FUNDS				
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS	15,800 - 208,024		16,272 - 210,609	

**Explanation of Estimate:**

LB298 creates the Legislative Oversight Division. The office of the Performance Audit would report to the Oversight Division Director. All current and future appropriations for the Performance Audit Office (Program 129) would remain. There would be no fiscal impact on the Legislative Council as a result.

The IG of NE Child Welfare and the IG of NE Corrections, and any support staff, would transfer from the Office of the Public Counsel to the Legislative Oversight Division. There would be a transfer of appropriations from Program 504 to support the financial needs. There would be no fiscal impact on the Legislative Council as a result.

The director position has the potential to be a newly created FTE. This is contingent on the decision of the Executive Board in regards to the appointment. The estimated expenditure range reflects this uncertainty.

**BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE**

**Personal Services:**

<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</u>		<u>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>
	<u>25-26</u>	<u>26-27</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
Legislative Oversight Division Director	1	1	13,720 - 150,000	14,132 - 154,500
Benefits.....			2,080 - 53,051	2,140 - 54,946
Operating.....			0 - 1,563	0 - 1,563
Travel.....				
Capital outlay.....			0 - 3,810	
Aid.....				
Capital improvements.....				
<b>TOTAL.....</b>			15,800 - 208,024	16,272 - 210,609

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

**2025**

**LB<sup>(1)</sup> 298**

**FISCAL NOTE**

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: <sup>(2)</sup> 05 Supreme Court

Prepared by: <sup>(3)</sup> Eric Asboe Date Prepared: <sup>(4)</sup> 2/12/2025 Phone: <sup>(5)</sup> 402-326-9215

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

	<u>FY 2025-26</u>		<u>FY 2026-27</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>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>
	<u>25-26</u>	<u>26-27</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Benefits.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Travel.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Capital outlay.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Aid.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Capital improvements.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL.....	_____	_____	_____	_____