

FISCAL NOTE
 LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST ESTIMATE

ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES (See narrative for political subdivision estimates)				
	FY 2025-26		FY 2026-27	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
GENERAL FUNDS	\$200,000		\$200,000	
CASH FUNDS				
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS	\$200,000		\$200,000	

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

LB317 would require the merger of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) into the Department of Environment and Energy (DEE) and rename the Department of Environment and Energy into the Department of Water Environment and Energy (WEE). The existing statutory duties of DNR and DEE would become the responsibility of WEE.

Other items within LB317 include:

- Strikes the requirement in the Water Sustainability Fund that awards use objectives described in the annual report and plan of work for the state water planning and review process issued by the department;
- Caps agreements under the Water Sustainability Fund to no less than ten years;
- Clarifies the penalty under 46-745 is to be remitted to the State Treasurer for distribution in accordance with Article VII, Sec. 5 of the Nebraska Constitution;
- Removes qualifications under the Director of the Department of Natural Resources, renames the Director the Chief Water Officer of the Division of Water of the Department of Water, Energy, and Environment;
- Strikes the definition of licensed facility operator under 71-3503, the Radiation Control Act;
- Adds a definition for high-level radioactive waste under 71-3524; and
- Extends the sunset for the Nebraska Litter Reduction and Recycling Act to 9/30/2027 from 9/30/2025.

LB317 declares an emergency. Estimates for cost relating to rebranding for this legislation appear reasonable.

Total agency appropriations are as follows:

	DNR	DEE
	FY24-25	
General	\$12,634,538	\$6,783,302
Cash	\$89,523,805	\$43,186,124
Federal	\$2,144,722	\$48,881,694
Total	\$104,303,065	\$98,851,120

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES STATE BUDGET DIVISION: REVIEW OF AGENCY & POLT. SUB. RESPONSE		
LB: 317	AM:	AGENCY/POLT. SUB: Department of Environment and Energy
REVIEWED BY: Joe Massey	DATE: 1/27/2025	PHONE: (402) 471-4181
COMMENTS: Department of Environment and Energy assessment of fiscal impact from LB 317 appears reasonable using the assumptions provided.		

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES STATE BUDGET DIVISION: REVIEW OF AGENCY & POLT. SUB. RESPONSE		
LB: 317	AM:	AGENCY/POLT. SUB: Department of Natural Resources
REVIEWED BY: Joe Massey	DATE: 1/22/2025	PHONE: (402) 471-4181
COMMENTS: Concur with the Department of Natural Resource's assessment of impact from the transfer articulated in LB 317		

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

2025

LB⁽¹⁾ 317

FISCAL NOTE

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: ⁽²⁾ Department of Natural Resources

Prepared by: ⁽³⁾ Isabella Peterson Date Prepared: ⁽⁴⁾ 1/17/2025 Phone: ⁽⁵⁾ 402-560-2017

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	\$100,000			
CASH FUNDS				
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS	\$100,000			

Explanation of Estimate:

LB 317 merges the Department of Environment and Energy with the Department of Natural Resources into a single agency. There are costs associated with the merger such as re-branding, website, business cards, and various printed materials. These costs are estimated around \$100,000 which the combined agencies would be able to offset over time as these expenses are incurred in this biennium. The combined agency does anticipate cost savings of an indeterminable amount in the future fiscal year as operational efficiencies are identified.

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.....			\$100,000	
Travel.....				
Capital outlay.....				
Aid.....				
Capital improvements.....				
TOTAL.....			\$100,000	

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

2025

LB⁽¹⁾ 317

FISCAL NOTE

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: ⁽²⁾ Department of Environment and Energy

Prepared by: ⁽³⁾ Kevin Stoner Date Prepared: ⁽⁴⁾ January 23, 2025 Phone: ⁽⁵⁾ 402 471-2186

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	\$100,000			
CASH FUNDS				
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>\$100,000</u>			

Explanation of Estimate:

LB 317 merges the Department of Environment and Energy with the Department of Natural Resources into one agency, the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment. There would be costs associated with the merger including IT related items needing updated (e.g. website) and branding (business cards, letterhead, vehicle/boat placards, etc.). NDEE estimates it would cost \$100,000 for the merger. There is expected to be cost savings over time as efficiencies are made but may not be realized until the FY 2027-29 biennium.

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.....			\$100,000	
Travel.....				
Capital outlay.....				
Aid.....				
Capital improvements.....				
TOTAL.....			<u>\$100,000</u>	