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PREPARED BY:
DATE PREPARED:
PHONE:

Sandy Sostad
February 02, 2011
471-0054

LB 149

Revision: 00

FISCAL NOTE

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST ESTIMATE

ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES *				
	FY 2011-12		FY 2012-13	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
GENERAL FUNDS	\$170,500		\$92,500	
CASH FUNDS				
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS	\$170,500		\$92,500	

*Does not include any impact on political subdivisions. See narrative for political subdivision estimates.

LB 149 is the Blind Persons Literacy Rights and Education Act. The bill requires persons who teach blind or visually impaired children to demonstrate competence in reading and writing Braille by possessing certification from a national board by 2012-13 or by passing an examination developed and administered by the State Department of Education (NDE). Individuals opting to obtain certification from a national board are required to pay for the certification.

The bill will have a general fund fiscal impact for NDE to develop and administer an examination for individuals who teach blind or visually impaired children. The estimated fiscal impact is \$170,500 of general funds in FY2011-12 and \$92,500 in FY2012-13 for the department to develop and administer the required examination. NDE would hire one FTE, with estimated salary and benefits of \$79,300, who would be responsible for the testing program and training teachers and administrators. About \$70,000 of the cost in FY2011-12 would be a one-time expenditure to contract for the development of the test. Another \$10,500 would be expended to train educators.

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

REVIEWED BY	Matt Eash	DATE	1/18/11	PHONE	471-2526
COMMENTS					
NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION: No fiscal impact to NDE. LB149 does not require NDE to create its own certification, so increasing NDE's appropriation for test development would be unnecessary. The Bill allows teachers to take a test already established by the National Blindness Professional Certification Board, and it requires the individual teacher to pay for such a test. This Bill does not require the state to train teachers to prepare for certification, and it does not require the state to purchase any equipment for teachers or schools. Administration of testing records and certifications could be absorbed by NDE's existing staff for no additional resources.					
Although there may be additional equipment costs to some schools, there would likely be little or no fiscal impact to TEEOSA aid statewide. Equipment purchases would represent a small percentage of most schools' overall special education budgets.					

JAN 10 2011

LB 149 FISCAL NOTE

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL

2011

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: NE Department of Education

Prepared by: Sherman/Coonts

Date Prepared: 1/14/11

Phone: 471-2471

ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION

	<u>FY 2011-12</u>		<u>FY 2012-13</u>	
	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
GENERAL FUNDS	887,500 ^(B) \$170,500 ^(A)		\$47,700 ^(B) \$92,500 ^(A)	
CASH FUNDS				
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS	\$87,500 ^(B) \$170,500 ^(A)		\$47,700 ^(B) \$92,500 ^(A)	

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

Explanation of Estimate:

(A) \$160,000 (1.0 FTE) NDE staff/support, contract(s) for exam development, technology up-grades
10,500 Training for Teachers
\$170,500

Or
 (B) (\$12,500) 50 Teachers; \$250/teacher for Nat. Certification in Literacy Braille (each 5 yr. period)
 33,000 Equipment: \$660/teacher (660 x 50 = \$33,000)
 10,500 Training for Teachers
44,000 (.5 FTE) NDE Staff plus support costs
\$87,500

MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURES

Personal Services:

<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</u>		<u>2011-12</u>		<u>2012-13</u>	
	<u>11-12</u>	<u>12-13</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>		<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	
	(1.0) ^(A) or (.5) ^(B)	(1.0) ^(A) or (.5) ^(B)	(A) \$50,000	Or (B) \$25,000	(A) \$50,000	Or (B) \$25,000
Educational Specialist III						
Benefit			29,300	14,000	30,000	15,200
Operating (includes contracts; technology upgrades)			80,700	5,000	10,000	5,000
Travel (Training)			10,500	10,500	2,500	2,500
Capital outlay (Equipment)			-----	33,000*	-----	-----
Aid (Teacher Exam—cost borne by teachers)			-----	(\$12,500)	-----	-----
Capital improvements						
TOTAL			\$170,500 or \$87,500		\$92,500 or \$47,700	

*School districts could be required to purchase.