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LB 957

Revision: 00

FISCAL NOTE

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST ESTIMATE

ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES *				
	FY 2012-13		FY 2013-14	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
GENERAL FUNDS	93,000		93,000	
CASH FUNDS				
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS	93,000		93,000	

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

This bill establishes the Office of Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare Act. The position of Inspector General would be established within the Office of Public Counsel. The Inspector General would be charged with conducting investigations, audits, inspections and other reviews of the child welfare system. The Inspector General must be certified as a Certified Inspector General within two years of the date of appointment. The Inspector General shall employ investigators and support staff as is necessary within the amount available in the appropriations to the Office of Public Counsel. The office is required to investigate the following: 1) allegations of possible misconduct, misfeasance, malfeasance, or violation of statutes or rules and regulations and 2) the death or serious injury of a child in homes, agencies, facilities and program licensed by the Department of Health and Human Services or in any case where services are provided by the department. The process for filing of complaints to be investigated and the process to be followed by the Inspector General are outlined. The office is required to report to the Health and Human Services Committee and the Governor annually.

The Inspector General position would be comparable to an Assistance Deputy Counsel in the Ombudsman's Office. Salary and benefits are estimated to \$88,000. Operating costs would be approximately \$5,000 annually. Existing support staff in the Office of Public Counsel can be utilized for this position.

The bill authorizes the Inspector General to hire investigators. Depending on the workload, there is the potential for the need for additional investigative staff in the future.