

7/20/12

PREPARED BY: Doug Gibbs  
DATE PREPARED: February 22, 2012  
PHONE: 402-471-0051

LB 1140

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				
CASH FUNDS	(\$ 1,038)		(\$ 1,039)	(\$ 576)
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS	(\$ 1,038)		(\$ 1,039)	(\$ 576)

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

LB 1140 amends Nebraska Revised Statutes relating to the Professional Landscape Architect Act.

The bill amends a number of sections to change “registered” to “licensed” wherever it is found; removes a restriction on the public member of the board regarding judging professional competency; provides that any person holding a current certificate of registration shall be deemed to be licensed until the expiration of such certificate; removes a requirement that the board mail a list of all licensed professional architects to every professional architect annually; and provides requirements on what is to be on the seal required by the Act.

In addition, the bill removes from statute education and experience requirements and inserts new language stating a new applicant must meet eligibility standards set by the board by rule and regulation and in consultation with the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards. It also provides that the required examination may be taken electronically and removes certain restrictions on who may take the examination.

The State Board of Landscape Architects has estimated that LB 1140 will slightly reduce expenditures of the board because of the change in examination requirements by allowing electronic exams. This will eliminate current expenditures for proctors for the written exam and administrative services received from the Board of Engineers and Architects. There will also be a slight reduction in revenue in exam fees received from applicants.

There appears to be no basis to disagree with the board's estimate of fiscal impact.

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

REVIEWED BY	Gary Bush	1/24/12	PHONE 471-2526
COMMENTS			
BOARD OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS – Agency's estimate appears to be reasonable.			

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LEGISLATIVE FISCAL

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

LB<sup>(1)</sup> 1140 FISCAL NOTE

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: (2) State Board of Landscape Architects

Prepared by: (3) Jon Wilbeck Date Prepared: (4) January 20, 2012 Phone: (5) 402-471-3060

ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION

	FY 2012-2013		FY 2013-2014	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
GENERAL FUNDS				
CASH FUNDS	(1,038)		(1,039)	(576)
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS	(1,038)		(1,039)	(576)

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

LB 1140 will decrease the required expenditures of the State Board of Landscape Architects because the exam required as a condition for licensure as a professional landscape architect will be transitioning from a written format to an electronic, computer-based format. The exam is known as the Landscape Architect Registration Examination (LARE).

The written exam is proctored or supervised through an agreement between the Board and an independent contractor; however, the computer-based exam will be administered by the Board and the Council of Landscape Architect Registration Boards (CLARB). CLARB provides programs and services to the State Board of Landscape Architects through a separate agreement already budgeted for, and neither the Board nor CLARB anticipates that costs for that agreement will rise because of the move to electronic examinations. Consequently, the Board will eliminate the need for an independent contractor as exam proctor and save those costs for proctoring services. Those proctoring costs are approximately 35 hours per year at \$12 per hour, totaling \$420.

Although, the Board would lose an estimated \$576 in revenue per fiscal year for exam fees received from applicants, the impact will be neutral since expenditures would decrease by the same amount when exams are purchased from CLARB.

Additionally, the Board of Engineers and Architects provides administrative services to the State Board of Landscape Architects through a memorandum of understanding. The move to electronic testing will reduce the amount of staff time spent on administration of the LARE testing process through savings on contract preparation, confirming availability and scheduling of the testing site, and correspondence with the exam applicant. Savings through reduction in administrative services costs would be approximately \$42 in FY 2012-13 and \$43 in FY 2013-14.

MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE

Personal Services:

POSITION TITLE	NUMBER OF POSITIONS		2012-2013 EXPENDITURES	2013-2014 EXPENDITURES
	12-13	13-14		
Benefits.....				
Operating.....			(1,038)	(1,039)
Travel.....				
Capital outlay.....				
Aid.....				
Capital improvements.....				
TOTAL.....			(1,038)	(1,039)