

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

<b>ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES</b> (See narrative for political subdivision estimates)				
	<b>FY 2015-16</b>		<b>FY 2016-17</b>	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
GENERAL FUNDS				
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 544 would establish the Community Gardens Act. The Department of Agriculture would be required to establish a community gardens task force on or before August 1, 2015, to identify and develop ways to encourage state agencies, municipalities and individuals to establish and expand community gardens. The task force would be required to issue a preliminary report no later than December 15, 2015 and a final report on December 15, 2016. It is anticipated that the agency could carry out this function using existing budgetary and staff resources.

LB 544 would also allow a state agency or municipality having title to vacant public land to consider the location of a community garden on such property. It is estimated that there would not be a significant fiscal impact to a state agency or a municipality as a result of this provision.

<b>ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES-STATE BUDGET DIVISION: REVIEW OF AGENCY &amp; POLT. SUB. RESPONSES</b>			
LB: 544	AM:	AGENCY/POLT. SUB: Nebraska Department of Agriculture	
REVIEWED BY: Cindy Miserez		DATE: 02/20/2015	PHONE: <a href="tel:402-471-4174">402-471-4174</a>
COMMENTS: I concur with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture's statement of fiscal impact for LB544.			

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

**2015**

**LB<sup>(1)</sup> LB 544**

**FISCAL NOTE**

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

Department of Agriculture

Prepared by: <sup>(3)</sup> Robert Storant

Date Prepared: <sup>(4)</sup> 2/19/15

Phone: <sup>(5)</sup> 402-471-6821

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

	<u>FY 2015-16</u>		<u>FY 2016-17</u>	
	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
GENERAL FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
CASH FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
FEDERAL FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
OTHER FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	=====	=====	=====	=====

**Explanation of Estimate:**

LB 544 creates an exemption for seed libraries under the Nebraska Seed Law and adopts the Community Gardens Act. Under the Nebraska Seed Law, the bill defines a seed library and amends the definition of sale, barter or exchange. The amendment to the definition of sale adds an element of uncertainty in enforcing the Act.

Under the Community Gardens Act, the Department shall establish a community gardens task force on or before August 1, 2015, to identify and develop ways to encourage the State, municipalities, and individuals to establish and expand community gardens. The bill provides a guideline of what should be studied and evaluated as part of the preliminary report to the Legislature due no later than December 15, 2015, and a final report due no later than December 15, 2016.

The Department would assign an existing Ag Promotion Coordinator to oversee and work with the task force in coordinating meetings and assist in compiling the preliminary and final report. No expenses are allowed under the proposed bill for the task force.

There would be minimal fiscal impact to the Department.

**BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE**

**Personal Services:**

<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</u>		<u>2015-16</u>	<u>2016-17</u>
	<u>15-16</u>	<u>16-17</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Benefits.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Travel.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Capital outlay.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Aid.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Capital improvements.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	_____	_____	_____	_____