

FISCAL NOTE
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST ESTIMATE

ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES (See narrative for political subdivision estimates)				
	FY 2017-18		FY 2018-19	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
GENERAL FUNDS	55,674		61,962	
CASH FUNDS				
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS	55,674		61,962	

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

This bill establishes the Voluntary Care Act. The act allows health care facilities or medical professionals to enter into contracts with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), local health departments, hospitals or other health care entity designated by DHHS to provide voluntary health care services within their scope of licensure to low-income individuals. The professionals or facilities with such contracts would be an agent of the State. For purposes of liability, the facilities or professionals would be covered under the State Contract Claims Act, State Miscellaneous Claims Act or the State Claims Act. For every hour of volunteer health care provided, licensed medical professionals may receive one hour of continuing education credit for a maximum of eight hours per licensing period.

Various requirements of the bill would require additional work on the part of Department staff. The Department’s fiscal note indicates the need for a program specialist to draft the rules and regulations, perform contract work, track continuing education and handle the recording of adverse incidents. The estimate appears to be reasonable.

Florida has had a volunteer provider program since 1992. The state is approximately ten time larger than Nebraska. The amount of health-related goods and services donated in FY 2015-16 was \$298 million. Nebraska is smaller and it would take a period of time before the program reached its peak of provider participation, but it’s likely that the value of good and services would far exceed the costs to the State to implement the program.

State claim payments may increase under this bill. The similar program in Florida program has paid out \$1.2 million since 1992. Because Florida’s population is significantly higher than Nebraska’s, the amount of additional claims that might be paid is likely to be much less and would likely occur beyond the FY 2018-19 biennium. An analysis from the Risk Manager within the Department of Administrative Services is needed.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES STATE BUDGET DIVISION: REVIEW OF AGENCY & POLT. SUB. RESPONSES		
LB: 606	AM:	AGENCY/POLT. SUB: Dept. of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
REVIEWED BY: Elton Larson	DATE: 2/22/2017	PHONE: (402) 471-4173
COMMENTS: DHHS analysis and estimate of fiscal impact to the department appears reasonable.		

