

FISCAL NOTE
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST ESTIMATE

ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES (See narrative for political subdivision estimates)				
	FY 2019-20		FY 2020-21	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
GENERAL FUNDS	\$124,689			
CASH FUNDS				
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS	\$124,689			

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

LB 241 pertains to school teacher mentoring programs. The bill requires the State Department of Education (NDE) to develop guidelines for teacher mentoring programs in school districts. The bill prescribes the content of the guidelines. Among other things, the guidelines shall include: mentoring programs with evidenced-based teacher mentoring standards; training for mentor teachers; and, the development of an assessment to determine if the mentoring program has improved the retention of beginning teachers.

Beginning in FY2020-21, schools may apply to the State Department of Education (NDE) for a teacher mentoring program grant for up to a three-year period. Seventy-five percent of the grant funds shall be used for stipends to mentor teachers. The grants are to be funded by the income from solar and wind agreements on school lands.

NDE Operations: The bill requires NDE to develop guidelines for teacher mentoring programs. This fiscal note assumes NDE will add or contract for 1.0 FTE in FY2019-20 to coordinate the development of guidelines for the mentoring programs and the revision of a rule on mentoring programs. This will also entail the development of evidence-based teacher mentoring standards and of an assessment for teacher mentoring programs. NDE will use educators to assist in the development of the guidelines and components thereof. It is assumed the training required for mentor teachers that is to be in the guidelines will be provided by school districts. The estimated cost for one Education Specialist to implement the bill in FY2019-20 is \$124,689 of general funds.

It is assumed there will be no increase in costs for the department to administer the teacher mentoring grant funds since the same amount of funds is currently being granted by the department for effective teacher grants.

NDE Aid: The income from solar and wind agreements on school lands is allocated beginning in FY2016-17 through FY2019-20 for grants to school districts to implement evaluation models for effective educators and training for teachers and administrators on the models. The amount of income from solar and wind agreements was \$226,238 in 2018. This consisted of revenue from 17 wind producing towers that generated \$168,735 of the total. The remainder of the revenue was received as rental during development that may or may not result in towers being installed. The Board of Educational Lands and Funds indicates the income will likely fluctuate in the future depending upon the speculation and development of wind towers.

Pursuant to current law, since the income from solar and wind agreements will no longer be used for evaluation models for effective educators beginning in FY2020-21, the income will be distributed to schools as state apportionment. State apportionment is allocated to all schools based on student census. However, LB 241 diverts the revenue to teacher mentoring program grants.

The fiscal impact of the bill for school districts will be a change in how revenue from solar and wind leases is allocated to schools. It is assumed revenue received by school districts for teacher mentoring grants will be a resource for state aid purposes just as state apportionment or effective educator grant funds are treated so the bill will not impact overall state resources for aid purposes. However, there could be a change in resources received by individual districts depending upon whether a teacher mentoring grant is received and the amount of state apportionment that would have been received in the absence of the bill.

School Districts: School districts which opt to provide teacher mentoring programs may have increased expenditures pursuant to the bill for training mentor teachers and the support of beginning teachers. A few school districts may have increased revenue from teacher mentoring grants which can be used for teacher stipends and administration. The amount of state apportionment allocated to schools will be slightly smaller due to the bill which will have a minimal fiscal impact for all school districts.

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2019

LB⁽¹⁾ 241

FISCAL NOTE

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: ⁽²⁾ Education

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ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION

	<u>FY 2019-20</u>		<u>FY 2020-21</u>	
	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
GENERAL FUNDS	\$145,407		\$194,450.45	
CASH FUNDS				
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>\$145,407</u>		<u>\$194,450.45</u>	

Explanation of Estimate:

This bill requires the NDE to develop the following prior to August 2020:

1. Evidence-based teacher mentoring standards;
2. Criteria for selecting the best mentor teachers;
3. An assessment that determines if district mentoring programs have improved the retention of teachers.

This would require the hiring of 1 FTE for two years to develop the above item, in addition to revising Rule 26, which is outdated. Nebraska educators and other stakeholders will be used for the work above. This fiscal note includes costs, during the 2019-20 school year, associated with facilitating a process to revise Rule 26 and develop evidence-based standards, criteria for selecting the best mentor teachers, and an assessment that determines the effectiveness of mentor programs on teacher retention. LB241 also requires the NDE to train mentor teachers. This fiscal note includes costs, during the 2020-21 school year, for training mentor teachers and coordinating the grant funds. Costs may vary depending on the number of educators and other stakeholders involved, the number of meetings required, etc.

BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE

Personal Services:

<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</u>		<u>2019-20</u>	<u>2020-21</u>
	<u>19-20</u>	<u>20-21</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
Education Specialist 3	1	1	\$60,268	\$61,474
Benefits.....			\$34,306	\$35,237
Operating.....			\$50,618	\$97,218
Travel.....			\$515	\$521.45
Capital outlay.....				
Aid.....				
Capital improvements.....				
TOTAL.....			<u>\$145,707</u>	<u>\$194,450.45</u>