

PREPARED BY: Mikayla Findlay  
 DATE PREPARED: January 11, 2023  
 PHONE: 402-471-0062

**LB 331**

Revision: 00

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

<b>ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES</b> (See narrative for political subdivision estimates)				
	<b>FY 2023-24</b>		<b>FY 2024-25</b>	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
GENERAL FUNDS				
CASH FUNDS				
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS	See below		See below	

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

This bill provides for joint adoption by two adult parties regardless of marital status. The Nebraska Supreme Court indicates that the bill would require additional judicial and court staff education which could be done within the agency’s current resources. The Department of Health and Human Services indicates that the fiscal is indeterminable and cites multiple factors including potential cost savings for child welfare if youth find permanency sooner (at least \$100 daily per youth), increased costs for home studies (up to \$1,500 per study), potential increased costs for child welfare enforcement in the event of a dissolution and thus child support collection. Such considerations and not knowing the magnitude of the number of children this will impact, the total fiscal impact – cost or cost savings – is unknown.

<b>ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES STATE BUDGET DIVISION: REVIEW OF AGENCY &amp; POLT. SUB. RESPONSE</b>		
<b>LB: 331</b>	<b>AM:</b>	<b>AGENCY/POLT. SUB: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (025)</b>
REVIEWED BY: Joe Wilcox	DATE: 02/27/2023	PHONE: (402) 471-4178
COMMENTS: No basis to disagree with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) estimate of Potential, but Indeterminate Fiscal Impact to the Agency from LB 331.		

<b>ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES STATE BUDGET DIVISION: REVIEW OF AGENCY &amp; POLT. SUB. RESPONSE</b>		
<b>LB: 331</b>	<b>AM:</b>	<b>AGENCY/POLT. SUB: Nebraska Supreme Court (005)</b>
REVIEWED BY: Joe Wilcox	DATE: 02/24/2023	PHONE: (402) 471-4178
COMMENTS: No disagreement with the Nebraska Supreme Court estimate of Minimal Fiscal Impact to the Agency from the provisions of LB 331, with no additional resources required.		

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

State Agency or Political Subdivision Name:(2) Department of Health and Human Services

Prepared by: (3) John Meals

Date Prepared 2-24-2023

Phone: (5) 471-6719

	<u>FY 2023-2024</u>		<u>FY 2024-2025</u>	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
<b>GENERAL FUNDS</b>				
<b>CASH FUNDS</b>				
<b>FEDERAL FUNDS</b>				
<b>OTHER FUNDS</b>				
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	See Below	See Below	See Below	See Below

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

**Explanation of Estimate:**

LB331 provides for adoption by two unmarried persons jointly and allows for one adult to adopt a child if the child has a sole legal parent; changes provisions relating to the consent of adoption, home studies, and terminology.

LB331 will result in a fiscal impact to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) due to multiple factors.

1. LB 331 could decrease costs for child welfare if youth find permanency sooner. The average total costs per day of a youth (including aid and administration) in out of home care are at least \$150. Once a youth is in a permanent setting, many of the costs decrease to \$50 per day. The savings would be at least \$100 per day due to certain services such as family visitation services and travel being eliminated. There is no current estimate of youth who would become adopted because of LB331.
2. A case requires a home study for a youth to be adopted. LB331 could result in more home studies before an adoption. Home studies vary by region and provider and cost up to \$1,500 per study. If studies are conducted but no youth are placed, DHHS could have an increase in costs. Depending on the number of studies and the ultimate reduction in daily costs, CFS could absorb the home study costs.
3. The administrative costs for Child Support Enforcement could increase if the adults who have adopted are not married and decide to dissolve their relationship. There may be a need to collect child support.

**MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE**

PERSONAL SERVICES:	NUMBER OF POSITIONS		2023-2024	2024-2025
	POSITION TITLE	23-24	24-25	EXPENDITURES
Benefits.....				
Operating.....				
Travel.....				
Capital Outlay.....				
Aid.....				
Capital Improvements.....				
<b>TOTAL.....</b>				

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**2023**

**LB<sup>(1)</sup> 331**

**FISCAL NOTE**

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: <sup>(2)</sup> 05 Supreme Court

Prepared by: <sup>(3)</sup> Eric Asboe Date Prepared: <sup>(4)</sup> 2/23/2023 Phone: <sup>(5)</sup> 402-326-9215

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

	<u>FY 2023-24</u>		<u>FY 2024-25</u>	
	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
GENERAL FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
CASH FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
FEDERAL FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
OTHER FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL FUNDS	=====	=====	=====	=====

**Explanation of Estimate:**

Minimal fiscal impact to provide judicial and court staff education. It is estimated, at this time, that the impact on judicial workload will not be significant. No additional resources required.

**BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE**

**Personal Services:**

<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</u>		<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
	<u>23-24</u>	<u>24-25</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Benefits.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Travel.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Capital outlay.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Aid.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Capital improvements.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL.....	_____	_____	_____	_____