

FISCAL NOTE
 LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST ESTIMATE

ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES (See narrative for political subdivision estimates)				
	FY 2025-26		FY 2026-27	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
GENERAL FUNDS	See Below		See Below	
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.

LB706 aims to reform interactions between law enforcement and individuals experiencing mental health crises by requiring specially trained Adult Protective Services (APS) social workers to accompany law enforcement officers during specific emergency responses.

Under the bill, dispatchers must screen incoming calls for mental health-related issues, such as threats of self-harm or signs of severe behavioral distress, flagging them as a "Mental Health Priority." This designation prompts the dispatch of APS social workers alongside officers. APS social workers are expected to lead these interactions, employing de-escalation techniques and trauma-informed care to minimize the potential for violence or harm.

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is responsible for developing and overseeing a certification and ongoing training program for APS social workers, covering crisis intervention, trauma-informed care, bias reduction, and cultural sensitivity.

Law enforcement agencies must adopt specific policies detailing how APS social workers will be integrated into their operations and submit these policies to the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice. The Commission will establish minimum standards for these policies and conduct annual compliance reviews. Agencies not complying with these requirements risk losing eligibility for certain state-administered funding, and individual officers who intentionally violate these protocols could face suspension or revocation of their law enforcement certifications.

The Nebraska State Patrol and Nebraska Crime Commission indicated that LB706 would have no fiscal impact. However, counties and local police departments anticipate the bill will have a significant fiscal impact.

DHHS reports that LB706 includes new requirements for APS staff, which would necessitate additional college education for the 47 current APS employees. Additional personnel may be needed to ensure 24/7 statewide coverage and to respond promptly when contacted by law enforcement. New standard operating procedures would outline revised job responsibilities and establish protocols for initiating and assigning intakes. The exact number of additional staff needed remains undetermined. There is no basis to disagree with this estimate at this time.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES STATE BUDGET DIVISION: REVIEW OF AGENCY & POLT. SUB. RESPONSE			
LB: 706	AM:	AGENCY/POLT. SUB: Crime Commission	
REVIEWED BY:	Jacob Leaver	DATE: 1/24/2025	PHONE: (402) 471-4173
COMMENTS: Concur with the Crime Commission's estimate of no fiscal impact as a result of LB 706.			

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES STATE BUDGET DIVISION: REVIEW OF AGENCY & POLT. SUB. RESPONSE			
LB: 706	AM:	AGENCY/POLT. SUB: State Patrol	
REVIEWED BY:	Jacob Leaver	DATE: 2/12/2025	PHONE: (402) 471-4173
COMMENTS: Concur with the State Patrol's estimate of no fiscal impact as a result of LB 706.			

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES STATE BUDGET DIVISION: REVIEW OF AGENCY & POLT. SUB. RESPONSE			
LB: 706	AM:	AGENCY/POLT. SUB: Nebraska Association of County Officials	
REVIEWED BY:	Jacob Leaver	DATE: 1/28/2025	PHONE: (402) 471-4173
COMMENTS: Concur with the Nebraska Association of County Officials' indeterminable fiscal impact as a result of LB 706.			

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES STATE BUDGET DIVISION: REVIEW OF AGENCY & POLT. SUB. RESPONSE			
LB: 706	AM:	AGENCY/POLT. SUB: Lincoln Police Department	
REVIEWED BY:	Jacob Leaver	DATE: 3/14/2025	PHONE: (402) 471-4173
COMMENTS: No basis to dispute the Lincoln Police Department's estimated fiscal impact as a result of LB 706.			

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES STATE BUDGET DIVISION: REVIEW OF AGENCY & POLT. SUB. RESPONSE			
LB: 706	AM:	AGENCY/POLT. SUB: Omaha Police Department	
REVIEWED BY:	Jacob Leaver	DATE: 2/4/2025	PHONE: (402) 471-4173
COMMENTS: No basis to dispute the Omaha Police Department's estimated fiscal impact as a result of LB 706. <u>Technical Note</u> : The amount reflected in the General Fund portion of the fiscal note is not the State of Nebraska's General Funds.			

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

2025

LB⁽¹⁾ 706

FISCAL NOTE

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: ⁽²⁾ Crime Commission

Prepared by: ⁽³⁾ Bryan Tuma Date Prepared: ⁽⁴⁾ 1/23/25 Phone: ⁽⁵⁾ 531-893-0405

ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION

	<u>FY 2025-26</u>		<u>FY 2026-27</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:

NO FISCAL IMPACT

BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE

Personal Services:

<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</u>		<u>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>
	<u>25-26</u>	<u>26-27</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
Benefits.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Travel.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Capital outlay.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Aid.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Capital improvements.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL.....	_____	_____	_____	_____

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 03/26/2025

Phone: (5) 471-6719

	<u>FY 2025-2026</u>		<u>FY 2026-2027</u>	
	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
GENERAL FUNDS				
CASH FUNDS				
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS	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:

LB706 requires the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to develop and implement a program to approve social workers as Adult Protective Services (APS) social workers who are trained in crisis intervention, trauma-informed care, bias reduction, and cultural sensitivity. LB706 then requires each law enforcement agency to screens calls involving individuals with a history of mental illness or mental health concerns. Upon receiving a call involving an individual with mental health concerns, each law enforcement agency would notify the nearest unit that can be accompanied by an APS social worker.

LB706 would require current APS staff (47 people) to obtain additional college education to meet the criteria. Additional staff would need to be hired to ensure that staff are always available in each area within reasonable travel time and to respond to calls throughout the state 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. New standard operating procedures would have to be created to define new job duties and requirements as well as to address how intakes would be initiated/assigned when staff are contacted directly by law enforcement to respond to a call. The number of additional staff to ensure coverage is unknown at this time.

MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE

PERSONAL SERVICES:	NUMBER OF POSITIONS		2025-2026	2026-2027
	POSITION TITLE	25-26	26-27	EXPENDITURES
Benefits.....				
Operating.....				
Travel.....				
Capital Outlay.....				
Aid.....				
Capital Improvements.....				
TOTAL.....			See Above	See Above

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

2025

LB⁽¹⁾ 706

FISCAL NOTE

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: ⁽²⁾ Nebraska Association of County Officials

Prepared by: ⁽³⁾ Elaine Menzel Date Prepared: ⁽⁴⁾ 1/27 /2025 Phone: ⁽⁵⁾ 402.434.5660

ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION

	<u>FY 2025-26</u>		<u>FY 2026-27</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:

LB706 would require dispatch personnel to screen and flag certain types of calls for service, whereupon a law enforcement officer would be required to respond to the call for service with a social worker. The bill requires law enforcement to respond with the nearest unit that can be accompanied by a social worker. It does not require agencies or counties to hire social workers. Therefore, the actual cost cannot be determined because it is not possible to identify which counties would hire additional social workers or enter into interlocal agreements contracting social workers (thereby subdividing the cost).

LB706 also specifies a penalty for agencies that do not comply with certain sections, meaning that an additional unknown financial impact might be derived from the loss of loans, grants, funds, or donations administered by the commission until the commission determines that such failure has been corrected. Finally, agencies might experience a financial cost to train personnel according to the regulations of LB706. However, this training might range from simply reading the new policy to actual in-service hours. Counties would likely experience an additional financial burden, but the actual cost is unknown.

BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE

Personal Services:

<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</u>		<u>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>
	<u>25-26</u>	<u>26-27</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
Benefits.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Travel.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Capital outlay.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Aid.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Capital improvements.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL.....	=====	=====	=====	=====

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

2025

LB⁽¹⁾ 706

FISCAL NOTE

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: ⁽²⁾ Omaha Police Department

Prepared by: ⁽³⁾ D/C S. Cerveny #1521 Date Prepared: ⁽⁴⁾ 1/27/25 Phone: ⁽⁵⁾ 402-444-5861

ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION

	<u>FY 2025-26</u>		<u>FY 2026-27</u>	
	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
GENERAL FUNDS	\$0/\$4,900,000		\$0/\$4,900,000	
CASH FUNDS				
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS				

Explanation of Estimate:

LB 706: Requirements for Social Workers to Accompany Officers on every Mental Health Related Call.

The Omaha Police Department would not anticipate any fiscal impact related to LB 706 if the number of social workers needed to accommodate this bill, were employed by the Department of Health & Human Services.

The OPD would anticipate an annual fiscal impact of approximately \$4,900,000 annually if the social workers needed to accommodate this bill, were employed by the Omaha Police Department. The related costs would cover salaries, benefits, & job-related equipment for 10 social workers assigned to all 3 daily shifts (30 social workers total).

BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE

Personal Services:

<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</u>		<u>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>
	<u>25-26</u>	<u>26-27</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
Benefits.....				
Operating.....				
Travel.....				
Capital outlay.....				
Aid.....				
Capital improvements.....				
TOTAL.....				

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

2025

LB⁽¹⁾ 706

FISCAL NOTE

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: ⁽²⁾ Nebraska State Patrol

Prepared by: ⁽³⁾ Carol Aversman Date Prepared: ⁽⁴⁾ 01/31/2025 Phone: ⁽⁵⁾ 402-471-4545

ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION

	<u>FY 2025-26</u>		<u>FY 2026-27</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:

NO FISCAL IMPACT

BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE

Personal Services:

<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</u>		<u>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>
	<u>25-26</u>	<u>26-27</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
Benefits.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Travel.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Capital outlay.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Aid.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Capital improvements.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL.....	_____	_____	_____	_____

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

2025

LB⁽¹⁾ 706

FISCAL NOTE

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: ⁽²⁾ Lincoln Police Department

Prepared by: ⁽³⁾ Captain Todd Kocian #940 Date Prepared: ⁽⁴⁾ 01-29-2025 Phone: ⁽⁵⁾ 402-441-1871

ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION

	<u>FY 2025-26</u>		<u>FY 2026-27</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:

This bill would require emergency dispatch personnel to screen calls via a checklist to identify calls involving persons with a history of mental health illness or a mental health concern. If established, the specific call would be flagged and unless not safe or reasonably practicable, a certified social worker would be required to respond with the officers. This could cause a delay in police response should the required social worker be unavailable.

In May of 2024 the Lincoln Police Department began tracking calls for service that appeared to be mental health related. By the end of calendar year 2024 we found that approximately 11.58% of our approximate 115,983 calls for service were mental health related. This equates to an average of 36.69 calls every day. The majority of these types of calls occur between 10:00 am and 2:00 am each day, that means for 16 hours each day there would have to be at least two social workers staffed and ready to respond. This would require roughly 10 FTE's on staff for our agency. Upon reaching out to other members in an attempt to determine the cost of such response, I was informed the salary for each required social worker would be approximately \$71,428 per year which factors in both salary and benefits. Ten FTE's with an annual salary of \$71,428 equates to \$714,280 per year. Adding another \$100,000 per year salary for the management of the positions brings the combined annual fiscal impact to roughly \$814,820 per year. The previously mentioned calculations are based on data from 2024. Thus far in 2025 we've found that 13.4% of our calls for service are mental health related in some way. So for 2025, the fiscal impact would increase. As these types of calls continue to increase each year, so too would be the numbers of social workers required to respond.

Current drafting of the bill notes the Department of Health and Human Services is responsible for developing and implementing the program to approve the social workers required to respond with law enforcement officers but does not specify who is fiscally responsible for their duties.

Currently we have processes in place and use discretion when deciding to send co-responders to mental health related calls. This is not mandatory but based on the facts and circumstances at that time. LB706 would take that discretion away and instead mandate an accompanying response with a social worker. Mandating said social workers to respond to every call involving a person with a history of mental health illness may have an unintended consequence of rendering those same social workers on duty at the time from responding to a crisis call where timely response is of the essence. The additional requirement for emergency dispatchers to follow a specific questionnaire will also delay response and possibly require additional staff as the time in which calls are screened, processed and assigned would only increase. Another added cost and time commitment would be the manner in which emergency communications personnel would communicate with the social workers. Would said social workers be provided with a department issued phone or police radio for communication? If so, there is the added cost of maintaining and providing such devices.

BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE

Personal Services:

<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</u>		<u>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>
	<u>25-26</u>	<u>26-27</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Benefits.....			_____	_____
Operating.....			_____	_____
Travel.....			_____	_____
Capital outlay.....			_____	_____
Aid.....			_____	_____
Capital improvements.....			_____	_____
TOTAL.....			_____	_____