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LB 446

Revision: 00

FISCAL NOTE
 LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST ESTIMATE

ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES *				
	FY 2009-10		FY 2010-11	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
GENERAL FUNDS				
CASH FUNDS	See Below		See Below	
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS	See Below		See Below	

*Does not include any impact on political subdivisions. See narrative for political subdivision estimates.

LB 446 would amend the Engineers and Architects Regulation Act.

The bill would create a qualified educational debt repayment program from the Engineers and Architects Regulation Fund for eligible Nebraska graduates.

Eligible graduates are those graduates of a National Architectural Accrediting Board-accredited architecture program in Nebraska or an ABET-accredited engineering program in Nebraska.

The bill defines qualified educational debt as government and commercial loans obtained by a student for postsecondary education tuition, other educational expenses, and reasonable living expenses, as determined by the Board of Engineers and Architects.

NOTE: Since 2004 the Board of Engineers and Architects has made direct payments of \$50 to University of Nebraska engineering students for passing the Fundamentals of Engineering exam on their first try and \$100 to University of Nebraska architectural students for enrolling in the Intern Development Program. Cost of these payments for FY2006-07 was \$10,500 and for FY2007-08 it was \$14,700, a total for the two fiscal years of \$25,200.

In 2008 it was determined that the Board of Engineers and Architects did not have and currently does not have statutory authority to make these payments, and the payments may have been unconstitutional.

The Board of Engineers and Architects estimates no fiscal impact as a result of LB 446 because they have been making these payments and they are already included in the agency budget. However, the language of LB 446 does not limit the amount that a student may be reimbursed or for what purposes as long as those purposes meet the definition of qualified educational debt.

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

REVIEWED BY	Gary Bush	DATE	2/26/09	PHONE	471-2526
COMMENTS					
DEPT. OF EDUCATION – No basis to disagree with estimate.					
EXAMINERS FOR ENGINEERS AND ARCHITECTS – If bill was not enacted, the agency might realize a small savings by discontinuation of a current practice to give payments to students who successfully pass the exams.					