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 DATE PREPARED: February 02, 2011
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LB 149

Revision: 00

FISCAL NOTE
 LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST ESTIMATE

| ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES * | | | | |
|--|--------------|---------|--------------|---------|
| | FY 2011-12 | | FY 2012-13 | |
| | EXPENDITURES | REVENUE | EXPENDITURES | REVENUE |
| GENERAL FUNDS | \$170,500 | | \$92,500 | |
| CASH FUNDS | | | | |
| FEDERAL FUNDS | | | | |
| OTHER FUNDS | | | | |
| TOTAL FUNDS | \$170,500 | | \$92,500 | |

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

LB 149 is the Blind Persons Literacy Rights and Education Act. The bill requires persons who teach blind or visually impaired children to demonstrate competence in reading and writing Braille by possessing certification from a national board by 2012-13 or by passing an examination developed and administered by the State Department of Education (NDE). Individuals opting to obtain certification from a national board are required to pay for the certification.

The bill will have a general fund fiscal impact for NDE to develop and administer an examination for individuals who teach blind or visually impaired children. The estimated fiscal impact is \$170,500 of general funds in FY2011-12 and \$92,500 in FY2012-13 for the department to develop and administer the required examination. NDE would hire one FTE, with estimated salary and benefits of \$79,300, who would be responsible for the testing program and training teachers and administrators. About \$70,000 of the cost in FY2011-12 would be a one-time expenditure to contract for the development of the test. Another \$10,500 would be expended to train educators.

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

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| REVIEWED BY | Matt Eash | DATE | 1/18/11 | PHONE | 471-2526 |
| COMMENTS | | | | | |
| <p>NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION: No fiscal impact to NDE. LB149 does not require NDE to create its own certification, so increasing NDE's appropriation for test development would be unnecessary. The Bill allows teachers to take a test already established by the National Blindness Professional Certification Board, and it requires the individual teacher to pay for such a test. This Bill does not require the state to train teachers to prepare for certification, and it does not require the state to purchase any equipment for teachers or schools. Administration of testing records and certifications could be absorbed by NDE's existing staff for no additional resources.</p> <p>Although there may be additional equipment costs to some schools, there would likely be little or no fiscal impact to TEEOSA aid statewide. Equipment purchases would represent a small percentage of most schools' overall special education budgets.</p> | | | | | |