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 DATE PREPARED: February 01, 2011  
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**LB 529**

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				
CASH FUNDS	See below		See below	
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS				

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

LB 529 changes provisions relating to conservation and preservation easements.

One provision would allow the appropriate local governing body to deny a conservation or preservation easement on the grounds that it was not in the best interest of the county. Another provision would provide that a conservation or preservation easement held by a charitable corporation or trust shall be limited to 10 years unless the county board, after a public hearing, approves its continuation. These new provisions may affect the assessed value of land for tax purposes if they limit the acreage that is held under a conservation or preservation easement. Any impact on property tax collections is indeterminate and will depend on approval/denial actions taken by the local governing bodies.

LB 529 also places certain limits on the Environmental Trust Board and the use of the Environmental Trust Fund. Namely, the Board cannot hold property nor obtain easements; no more than 10% of the grant allocations in any year can be used by recipients for land purchases or easements; and only political subdivisions can use grant allocations for land acquisition. These provisions will potentially change the type of projects that are funded by the Board but this will not have a fiscal impact on their overall expenditures since the revenue available to be distributed does not change and the requests for project funding far exceeds the money available.

The Game and Parks Commission is a recipient of money from the Environmental Trust Fund and they have indicated in their fiscal note that prohibiting them from using grant proceeds for land acquisition may prevent projects from moving ahead or result in a heavier reliance on agency cash funds. There is no basis to disagree with this assessment.

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

REVIEWED BY	Cindy Miserez	DATE	2/1/11	PHONE	471-2526
COMMENTS					
NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION: I have no basis to disagree with NGPC's statement.					