

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

<b>ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES</b> (See narrative for political subdivision estimates)				
	<b>FY 2017-18</b>		<b>FY 2018-19</b>	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
GENERAL FUNDS	24,000		16,600 to 20,600	
CASH FUNDS				
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>24,000</b>		<b>16,600 to 20,600</b>	

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

LB 392 would establish the Wind Friendly Counties Act. The Department of Agriculture would establish a process, including criteria and standards, to recognize and assist efforts of counties to create, maintain, or expand wind energy opportunities. The agency would be further directed to provide, upon written request of the county zoning authority or county board, information sources that may be useful to the county in evaluating and crafting wind energy facility regulation that meets the objectives of the county and the wind energy generation industry.

Because the Department of Agriculture does not currently have staff expertise in wind energy matters, it is estimated that the agency would contract with an expert in the field to develop both designation criteria and reference information sources that would be of use to counties considering wind energy opportunities. The agency estimates that up to \$24,000 could be expended in the first year of the program to carry out these functions. Ongoing costs would depend upon the number of applications to be reviewed and extent of outreach that is desired. The agency estimates costs of \$16,600 General Funds to retain part-time staff or contractual assistance to conduct evaluations of certification requests and maintain reference materials. Outreach costs for travel expenses and printed materials could increase costs by \$4,000 General Funds.

<b>ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE STATE BUDGET DIVISION: REVIEW OF AGENCY &amp; POLT. SUB. RESPONSE</b>		
LB: 392	AM:	AGENCY/POLT. SUB: Nebraska Department of Agriculture
REVIEWED BY: Claire Oglesby	DATE: 2/7/17	PHONE: <a href="tel:4024714174">(402) 471-4174</a>
COMMENTS: Nebraska Department of Agriculture's estimate of fiscal impact appears reasonable given the assumptions used.		

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**2017**

**LB<sup>(1)</sup> 392**

**FISCAL NOTE**

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: <sup>(2)</sup> Department of Agriculture

Prepared by: <sup>(3)</sup> Christina Barber Date Prepared: <sup>(4)</sup> 2/6/2017 Phone: <sup>(5)</sup> 402-471-6821

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

	<u>FY 2017-18</u>		<u>FY 2018-19</u>	
	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
GENERAL FUNDS	\$ 24,000		\$ 20,600	
CASH FUNDS				
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$ 24,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$ 20,600</b>	<b>0</b>

**Explanation of Estimate:**

This proposed bill will adopt the Wind Friendly Counties Act. The Department shall establish a process to recognize and assist efforts of counties to create, maintain, or expand wind energy opportunities as well as assist any county with information pursuant to the Wind Friendly Counties Act.

The Department believes it will be necessary to contract for the creation and development of this service during the first year with an estimated cost of \$24,000. This expense is for the contractor to conduct research that is necessary through stakeholder engagement to develop the evaluation criteria. In subsequent years, hiring a .20 FTE for an Ag Promotion Coordinator or equivalent contractor will be necessary to provide services and ongoing execution of the program. It is estimated that \$4,000 will be needed for printing signs and other operating and travel costs for county outreach and to provide assistance where needed as defined in Section 4 of the proposed bill.

**BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE**

**Personal Services:**

<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</u>		<u>2017-18 EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>2018-19 EXPENDITURES</u>
	<u>17-18</u>	<u>18-19</u>		
Ag Promotion Coordinator		.20		\$ 11,800
Benefits.....				\$ 4,800
Operating.....			\$ 24,000	\$ 2,000
Travel.....				\$ 2,000
Capital outlay.....				
Aid.....				
Capital improvements.....				
<b>TOTAL.....</b>			<b>\$ 24,000</b>	<b>\$ 20,600</b>