

FISCAL NOTE
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST ESTIMATE

ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES (See narrative for political subdivision estimates)				
	FY 2021-22		FY 2022-23	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
GENERAL FUNDS				
CASH FUNDS	\$98,364		\$99,425	
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS	\$98,364		\$99,425	

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

LB 498 requires the Public Service Commission (PSC) to implement a broadband service testing and mapping program designed to provide information on broadband availability and speeds received by telecommunications service subscribers in Nebraska. As a condition for receiving Nebraska Telecommunications Universal Service Fund support, each telecommunications company receiving universal service support shall submit data to the PSC for testing under the program. The commission shall utilize the program to provide validation information in a public broadband map, and may share such map with the Federal Communications Commission. The data collected and map developed shall be made available to the public on the commission's web site.

The PSC estimates the need for 1.0 FTE or services of a contracted individual to address the bill's provisions. This estimate appears to be reasonable.

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2021

LB⁽¹⁾ 498

FISCAL NOTE

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: ⁽²⁾ Nebraska Public Service Commission

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ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION

	<u>FY 2021-22</u>		<u>FY 2022-23</u>	
	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
GENERAL FUNDS				
CASH FUNDS	98,364		99,425	
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>98,364</u>		<u>99,425</u>	

Explanation of Estimate:

LB498 directs the Commission to implement a broadband service testing and mapping program to test the broadband availability and speeds experienced by telecommunications service subscribers in the state. It provides the Commission with the option to contract with a third party to perform the speed availability and testing program, and requires telecommunications providers receiving Nebraska Universal Service Fund support to submit data to the Commission for testing. It also provides the Commission with the option to utilize speed testing devices that would collect information at the initial point of connection of a broadband service at a subscriber's location, which would require the subscriber's cooperation and consent. The bill then directs the Commission to make the information collected available in a public map, hosted on the Commission's website.

To enact the provisions of this bill, the Commission would either hire an additional staff person, whose costs are included in the fiscal note, or contract with a third party, which would be entered into after issuing an RFP. Given the technical nature of what is required through this bill, we anticipate that a third-party contractor might better meet the needs of the program, but the costs of such a contract are unknown at this time. To meet the provisions of this bill, the staff or third-party contractor would need to be technically proficient at collecting, managing, and analyzing speed test data. If the independent computing device provisions are implemented, they would also be required to have the ability and technical proficiency to communicate with subscribers to explain the process, obtain consent, and either connect devices to their broadband service, or be a resource for people that have issues with connecting the devices themselves. The staff or contractor will also be required to analyze and prepare data so that it can be displayed on a public map, while maintaining the confidentiality of subscribers' personal information.

Additional costs included in this fiscal note would be funded through the Nebraska Universal Service Fund, Program 686.

BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE

Personal Services:

<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</u>		<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>
	<u>21-22</u>	<u>22-23</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
Analyst	1	1	62,998	65,518
Benefits.....			32,507	33,807
Operating.....			2,859	100
Travel.....				

Capital outlay.....
Aid.....
Capital improvements.....
TOTAL.....

98,364

99,425