

Revised for additional agency comment

FISCAL NOTE

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST ESTIMATE

ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES (See narrative for political subdivision estimates)				
	FY 2025-26		FY 2026-27	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
GENERAL FUNDS				
CASH FUNDS				
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS				

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

LB317 would require the merger of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) into the Department of Environment and Energy (DEE) and rename the Department of Environment and Energy into the Department of Water Environment and Energy (WEE). The existing statutory duties of DNR and DEE would become the responsibility of WEE.

Other items within LB317 include:

- Strikes the requirement in the Water Sustainability Fund that awards use objectives described in the annual report and plan of work for the state water planning and review process issued by the department;
- Caps agreements under the Water Sustainability Fund to no less than ten years;
- Clarifies the penalty under 46-745 is to be remitted to the State Treasurer for distribution in accordance with Article VII, Sec. 5 of the Nebraska Constitution;
- Removes qualifications under the Director of the Department of Natural Resources, renames the Director the Chief Water Officer of the Division of Water of the Department of Water, Energy, and Environment;
- Strikes the definition of licensed facility operator under 71-3503, the Radiation Control Act;
- Adds a definition for high-level radioactive waste under 71-3524; and
- Extends the sunset for the Nebraska Litter Reduction and Recycling Act to 9/30/2027 from 9/30/2025.

LB317 declares an emergency. No basis to disagree with the agencies that costs for re-branding can be absorbed in the current budgets.

Total agency appropriations are as follows:

	DNR	DEE
	FY24-25	
General	12,634,538	6,783,302
Cash	89,523,805	43,186,124
Federal	2,144,722	48,881,694
Total	104,303,065	98,851,120

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2025

LB⁽¹⁾ 317 Revised

FISCAL NOTE

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: ⁽²⁾ Department of Natural Resources

Prepared by: ⁽³⁾ Isabella Peterson Date Prepared: ⁽⁴⁾ 4/02/2025 Phone: ⁽⁵⁾ 402-560-2017

ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION

	<u>FY 2025-26</u>		<u>FY 2026-27</u>	
	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
GENERAL FUNDS	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
CASH FUNDS	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
FEDERAL FUNDS	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
OTHER FUNDS	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Explanation of Estimate:

LB 317 merges the Department of Natural Resources with Department of Environment and Energy into one agency, the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment. There would be costs associated with the merger including IT related items needing updated (e.g. website) and branding (business cards, letterhead, vehicle/boat placards, etc.). The Department of Natural Resources believes these costs will be able to be absorbed in the current budget. There is expected to be cost savings over time as efficiencies are made and realized within the FY 2027-29 biennium.

BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE

Personal Services:

<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</u>		<u>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>
	<u>25-26</u>	<u>26-27</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
Benefits.....				
Operating.....				
Travel.....				
Capital outlay.....				
Aid.....				
Capital improvements.....				
TOTAL.....				

2025

FISCAL NOTE

Prepared by: ⁽³⁾ Kevin Stoner Date Prepared: ⁽⁴⁾ April 2, 2025 Phone: ⁽⁵⁾ 402 471-2186

	FY 2025-26		FY 2026-27	
	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
GENERAL FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
CASH FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
FEDERAL FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
OTHER FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL FUNDS	=====	=====	=====	=====

LB 317 merges the Department of Environment and Energy with the Department of Natural Resources into one agency, the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment. There would be costs associated with the merger including IT related items needing updated (e.g. website) and branding (business cards, letterhead, vehicle/boat placards, etc.). NDEE believes these costs will be able to be absorbed in the current budget. There is expected to be cost savings over time as efficiencies are made and realized within the FY 2027-29 biennium.

POSITION TITLE	NUMBER OF POSITIONS		2025-26	2026-27
	<u>25-26</u>	<u>26-27</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
Benefits.....				
Operating.....				
Travel.....				
Capital outlay.....				
Aid.....				
Capital improvements.....				
TOTAL.....				