

PREPARED BY: Mikayla Findlay
DATE PREPARED: March 3, 2025
PHONE: 402-471-0062

LB 214

Revision: 00

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 | See below | | See below | |

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

This bill modifies provisions of the Newborn Safe Haven Act to include the use of newborn safety devices. The bill states legislative intent to appropriate \$15,000 in FY26 to award grants for installation of such devices. This grant funding is not permitted to be used for ongoing expenses. The Department of Health and Human Services notes administrative expenses including IT updates, approvals, and procurement protocols, and indicates ability to absorb such expenses within current agency appropriations.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES STATE BUDGET DIVISION: REVIEW OF AGENCY & POLT. SUB. RESPONSE

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|--|--------------|-----|--|----------|--------|----------------|
| ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES STATE BUDGET DIVISION: REVIEW OF AGENCY & POLT. SUB. RESPONSE | | | | | | |
| LB: | 214 | AM: | AGENCY/POLT. SUB: Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services | | | |
| REVIEWED BY: | Ann Linneman | | DATE: | 3-4-2025 | PHONE: | (402) 471-4180 |
| COMMENTS: Concur with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services' assessment of fiscal impact. | | | | | | |

ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION

State Agency or Political Subdivision Name:(2) Department of Health and Human Services

Prepared by: (3) John Meals

Date Prepared 3-3-25

Phone: (5) 471-6719

| | FY 2025-2026 | | FY 2026-2027 | |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------|---------------------|---------|
| | EXPENDITURES | REVENUE | EXPENDITURES | REVENUE |
| GENERAL FUNDS | \$15,000 | | | |
| CASH FUNDS | | | | |
| FEDERAL FUNDS | | | | |
| OTHER FUNDS | | | | |
| TOTAL FUNDS | \$15,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |

Return by date specified or 72 hours prior to public hearing, whichever is earlier.

Explanation of Estimate:

LB214 amends the Newborn Safe Haven Act to provide for the use of newborn safety devices. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to develop certain procedures and appropriate funds for grants.

LB876 passed in 2024 and became Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 43-4901 through 43-4903. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 43-4902 appropriated funds to DHHS to develop, implement, and maintain a public information program to inform the public of the Newborn Safe Haven Act. The program's components included a website, the distribution of literature and other educational materials, and training. To implement LB214, CFS will need to update these materials to reflect the changes in LB214. Updating the staff procedures and routing through the CFS approvals process; making updates to any/all informational materials, including on the public website; adding information about paternity testing; new letters to safe haven locations will require the following staff hours: Program Specialist (10-15 hours), Program Administrator (5-10 hours), Attorney III (5 hours), Deputy Director (5 hours).

Section 4(b) requires Children and Family Services (CFS) to approve the signage that identifies the newborn safety device and provides pictorial instruction. The location where a newborn safety device is installed is required to notify the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) of any failure that would require the device to be removed from service. Approving the signage that identifies the newborn safety device will vary based on the number of locations that decide to implement a newborn safety device. The bill states that participation as a location is voluntary. The below staff hours would apply per location: Program Specialist (1 hour), Program Administrator (1 hour), Deputy Director (1 hour), Legal (1 hour).

Section 5 intends to appropriate \$15,000 to DHHS for fiscal year 2025-2026 to award grants for the installation but not for the ongoing operation of newborn safety devices unless the lack of funding jeopardizes the continued use of an installed device. CFS will work with the Office of Procurement and Grants (OPG) on the grant process. The Drafting & Approval process for the grants will require the following staff hours: Program Specialist (3 hours), Program Administrator (2 hours), Administrator II (1 hour), Deputy Director (1 hour), and will cost OPG approximately \$183/grant. Due to the small dollar amount and limited purpose, OPG expects that the number and complexity of these grants to be absorbed by existing resources. Once the first grant agreement is drafted, then that agreement will serve as a template for future agreements.

Section 6 requires CFS to develop procedures related to the Newborn Safe Haven Act, which shall be published on our website, which allows an individual to (1) anonymously provide medical history relating to the newborn, (2) reconsider the surrender of a newborn and (3) undergo paternity testing. CFS has information on our DHHS public website safe haven page regarding 1 and 2 above. CFS will update our public safe haven page to include information on paternity testing. CFS will need to update current staff procedures to reflect the changes in LB214. The expenses related to communications will be \$6,000 - \$10,000 to update the public information program related to public awareness of newborn safety devices. It will also require staff time to

update existing public information program materials: Marketing & Communications Specialist II (52 hours), Marketing & Communications Specialist III (24 hours). CFS will also need to update the Safe Haven map on the DHHS public website. Last year, Public Health and the Data Office assisted with this. The data team will cost \$400-800 to update the safe haven map.

The system update would be required to change the website, and the estimated cost for Information Systems and Technology (IS&T) related expenses would be \$1,150.

| MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE | | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|-------|--------------|--------------|
| PERSONAL SERVICES: | | | | |
| POSITION TITLE | NUMBER OF POSITIONS | | 2025-2026 | 2026-2027 |
| | 25-26 | 26-27 | EXPENDITURES | EXPENDITURES |
| | | | | |
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| Benefits..... | | | | |
| Operating..... | | | | |
| Travel..... | | | | |
| Capital Outlay..... | | | | |
| Aid..... | | | \$15,000 | |
| Capital Improvements..... | | | | |
| TOTAL..... | | | \$15,000 | \$0 |