

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	\$12,500		\$2,500	
CASH FUNDS				
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS	\$12,500		\$2,500	

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

LB549 amends §79-804, §79-805, & §79-814.01 to allow a school board to employ a chaplain without a certificate issued by the Commissioner of Education & to provide powers & duties to the State Board of Education.

A school board can employ a chaplain to perform various duties at the school including providing academic, career, emotional, & behavioral health supports to students.

Prior to employment of a chaplain, school boards will develop a policy for the employment of an uncertified individuals to perform various duties at the school. This policy will include provisions relating to the employment, discipline, continued education, & termination of employment of a chaplain.

The chaplain will not be required to hold a certificate to teach, administer, or perform special services in this state.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Prior to employment, the chaplain will be subject to a criminal history record information check & will pay any required fees for that criminal background check. The Nebraska State Patrol (NSP) will conduct the search for criminal history record information relating to an applicant for employment as a chaplain at the request of the Commissioner of Education.

The State Board of Education will determine & set the costs for processing criminal history record information checks.

The Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) estimates the need for \$12,500 in FY2025-26 to develop an application process & to adjust their computer systems for the submission of work authorizations & background checks. They also estimate a need for \$2,500 for FY2026-27 & each year thereafter to process the applications & for upkeep of the computer system.

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

LB: 549 AM: AGENCY/POLT. SUB: Department of Education

REVIEWED BY: Kimberly Burns DATE: 02/21/2025 PHONE: (402) 471-4171

COMMENTS: Agree with the Department of Education's FY 2025-26 estimate of fiscal impact resulting from LB 549, but dispute additional ongoing impact for FY 2026-27 and subsequent years, as any additional impact could likely be absorbed within existing resources.

Please complete ALL (5) blanks in the first three lines.

2025

LB⁽¹⁾ 549

FISCAL NOTE

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: ⁽²⁾ Education

Prepared by: ⁽³⁾ Lane Carr Date Prepared: ⁽⁴⁾ 2.13.25 Phone: ⁽⁵⁾ 402.419.3012

ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION

	FY 2025-26		FY 2026-27	
	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
GENERAL FUNDS	<u>\$12,500</u>	<u></u>	<u>\$2,500</u>	<u></u>
CASH FUNDS	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
FEDERAL FUNDS	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
OTHER FUNDS	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>\$12,500</u>	<u></u>	<u>\$2,500</u>	<u></u>

Explanation of Estimate:

Currently, background checks for non-certificated staff like bus drivers, cafeteria staff, and maintenance staff are processed by the local school districts according to their policies. LB549 would require chaplains to undergo a background check through the process NDE uses for certificated staff, and NDE would incur initial cost to develop an application process and adjust computer systems for the submission of work authorizations and background checks. There would also be an ongoing cost of staff to process applications and upkeep the system.

The NDE estimates the initial set up cost to be \$12,500. The estimated continued cost for staff time is \$2,500 per year.

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>
	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
Benefits.....				
Operating.....			<u>\$12,500</u>	<u>\$2,500</u>
Travel.....			<u></u>	<u></u>
Capital outlay.....			<u></u>	<u></u>
Aid.....			<u></u>	<u></u>
Capital improvements.....			<u></u>	<u></u>
TOTAL.....			<u>12,500</u>	<u>\$2,500</u>