

PREPARED BY: Mikayla Findlay  
DATE PREPARED: February 4, 2025  
PHONE: 402-471-0062

**LB 141**

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				

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

This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to determine whether the subject of a report of child abuse or neglect is a member of a military family and if so, and the report is not determined to be unfounded, notify the appropriate military authorities and any appropriate military family advocacy program. Note that there is lack of clarity at what stage of the reporting process the notification is to occur due to the exclusion of unfounded reports, which would be classified as such following investigation later in the process. The notification functionality can be built in to the DHHS Nebraska Family Online Credit User System (NFOCUS) at a cost of approximately \$30,000, which can be absorbed within current appropriations.

The bill also requires DHHS to negotiate a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that establishes procedures for this new reporting requirement. DHHS indicates they currently have a MOU with Offutt Family Advocacy Offices for joint investigations on base. This MOU would need to be updated and DHHS would utilize that updated document as a template that could be used with other military family advocacy programs to comply with the provisions of the bill. There is no basis to disagree with the fiscal impact of DHHS.

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

LB:	141	AM:	AGENCY/POLT. SUB: Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services	
REVIEWED BY:	Ann Linneman		DATE:	2-5-2025
			PHONE:	(402) 471-4180
COMMENTS: Concur with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services' assessment of no 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 1-21-2025

Phone: (5) 471-6719

	<b><u>FY 2025-2026</u></b>		<b><u>FY 2026-2027</u></b>	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
<b>GENERAL FUNDS</b>				
<b>CASH FUNDS</b>				
<b>FEDERAL FUNDS</b>				
<b>OTHER FUNDS</b>				
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

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

**Explanation of Estimate:**

LB141 will require CFS to notify the appropriate military authorities and any appropriate military family advocacy program when a report of child abuse or neglect is received, and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) does not determine the report to be unfounded. As written, it is not clear if the intent of the bill is to notify when a report is "accepted" by the Hotline as the Hotline does not classify reports as unfounded; unfounded is a determination made to classify findings for allegations after the report has been investigated.

This bill requires DHHS to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with any military advocacy program at a military installation in Nebraska. CFS currently has an active MOU with the Offutt Family Advocacy Office to allow for joint investigations with any military families on Offutt. LB141 would require the existing MOU to be updated.

The creation of the MOU's will require staff time from the Office of Procurement and Grants (OPG), Legal, and Program. The time for MOUs will be determined based on the number of military authorities and military family advocacy programs that need an MOU to meet LB141 requirements. It is estimated it will take 6-19 total hours per MOU. The goal would be to create 1 MOU form or template which could be used with the multiple entities that may exist to stratify the requirements of LB141. These costs would be absorbed by the Department.

Additionally, DHHS would have to make following changes to the Nebraska Family Online Credit User System (NFOCUS):

1. Update the Hotline screening assessment to include information about a family's military involvement when a report is received.
2. Create a new notification to the appropriate military authorities and any appropriate military family advocacy program when a finding of Agency Substantiated, Court Substantiated, or Court Pending finding is entered at the conclusion of an investigation (these findings are those that are not Unfounded as required in the bill).

The staffing hours and cost associated with IT updates are listed below and would also be absorbed by the DHHS.

Resource	Rate	Hours	Cost
Gen Technical Analyst	\$100	158.40	\$15,840
Batch Technical Analyst	\$100	67.2	\$6,720
Business Analyst	\$80	96	\$7,680
Total		321.60	\$30,240

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