

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	\$1,477,590		\$1,203,674	
CASH FUNDS				
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS	\$1,477,590		\$1,203,674	

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

LB 358 allows committed offenders to request access to their individual files by submitting a written request to the chief executive officer of the facility where they are located.

LB 358 requires the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services (NDCS) to give committed offenders access to their individual files upon written request to the chief executive officer of their facility.

NDCS has stated that much of this file information is already stored in their computer systems (NICams and ATG) and could be made available electronically to inmates through their tablets. To meet the requirements of LB 358, NDCS estimates it will cost \$247,500 to develop a system that generates PDFs of these files, builds a user interface, and creates a background program to track requests and deliveries. For each request, staff would need to access the system, generate the necessary reports, and send them to the inmate, which NDCS estimates will take 30-45 minutes per request.

Currently, about 3.7% of the inmate population (roughly 210 individuals) do not have tablets. Additionally, offenders who were incarcerated before file automation began (roughly 4-5 years ago) may still have paper records. NDCS plans to schedule supervised time slots for these individuals to review their files using kiosks, designated computers, or physical documents.

To implement LB 358, NDCS estimates they will need 14 additional full-time employees (FTEs) at a cost of \$1.23 million in FY26 and \$1.2 million in FY27. This includes salaries, benefits, and equipment such as uniforms and radios. The breakdown of these new positions includes 12 Corporals and 2 Corrections Records Managers to oversee and process file access. NDCS explained that these 12 Corporals are needed to supervise inmates while they access records at kiosks, with larger facilities such as Tecumseh, the State Penitentiary, and the Reception and Treatment Center each requiring two Corporals to ensure security and proper oversight.

Based on the discussion and the breakdown provided, there is no basis to disagree with these estimates at this time.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES STATE BUDGET DIVISION: REVIEW OF AGENCY & POLT. SUB. RESPONSE			
LB: 358	AM:	AGENCY/POLT. SUB: Department of Correctional Services	
REVIEWED BY:	Jacob Leaver	DATE:	1/29/2025 PHONE: (402) 471-4173
COMMENTS: Concur with the Department of Correctional Services' estimated fiscal impact as a result of LB 358.			

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2025

LB⁽¹⁾ 358

FISCAL NOTE

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: ⁽²⁾ Nebraska Department of Correctional Services

Prepared by: ⁽³⁾ Lisa Stanton Date Prepared: ⁽⁴⁾ 01/27/2025 Phone: ⁽⁵⁾ (402)479-5702

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>\$1,477,590</u>	<u></u>	<u>\$1,203,674</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>\$1,477,590</u>	<u></u>	<u>\$1,203,674</u>	<u></u>

Explanation of Estimate:

LB358 requires the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services to provide committed offenders access to their own individual file upon written request to the chief executive officer of the facility.

File information that is available in computer programs used by the agency (NiCAMS and/or ATG) could be made available to inmates electronically on their tablets. The cost for development of one or more pdfs to meet the requirements of the statute (sections 1a – h and 2c) and development of the user interface and background programs to generate and pass the data to the inmate electronically and to track what has been requested and provided is estimated at \$247,500. For each request received, a staff member would need to access the interface, generate the data and/or reports, and send them. It is estimated this will take 30-45 minutes per request.

Currently approximately 3.7% of the population, or 210 inmates, do not have tablets. In addition, there are numerous offenders serving sentences that started prior to the last 4-5 years when file automation began that also have paper files. Staff supervised time slots would be scheduled for these individuals to review their files. The information would be available via kiosks, computers set up specifically for this purpose, and any paper files available for reviewing.

The NDCS conservatively estimates an additional 14.0 FTE are needed to accomplish the requirements of LB358 in a safe and timely manner at a cost of \$1,230,090 in FY26 and \$1,203,674 in FY27. This amount includes \$843,617 in FY26 and \$868,926 in FY27 for PSL, \$295,266 in FY26 and \$304,124 in FY27 for benefits, and \$91,207 in FY26 and \$30,624 in FY27 for uniforms, radios and other equipment and services. The 14.0 FTE breakdown as follows: 12.0 Corporals and 2.0 Corrections Records Manager I.

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>
Corporals	<u>12.0</u>	<u></u>	<u>\$763,808</u>	<u>\$786,723</u>
Records Manager I	<u>2.0</u>	<u></u>	<u>\$79,809</u>	<u>\$82,203</u>
Benefits.....			<u>\$295,266</u>	<u>\$304,124</u>
Operating.....			<u>\$338,707</u>	<u>\$30,624</u>
Travel.....			<u></u>	<u></u>

Capital outlay.....		
Aid.....		
Capital improvements.....		
TOTAL.....	\$1,477,590	\$1,203,674