

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS26616

This bill would add one new district judge position with resident chambers in Ada County, beginning October 1, 2019. The last new district judge position in Ada County was created in 2013, and the last one before that in 2007. The population of Ada County has increased by 16% since 2013, and it continues to grow. The judiciary has been able to keep pace with the corresponding growth in court calendars by the use of senior judges and by having active judges assigned to cases in districts other than their own when required. Drug and mental health courts operating in this district have provided a cost-effective means of avoiding expensive incarceration costs while protecting the community. Their operation has been possible only because judges have been willing to devote time beyond normal working hours to preside over these courts. Dealing with Idaho's growing population and caseload and continuing to expand the capacity of drug and mental health courts requires these additional judicial resources.

FISCAL NOTE

The cost for Fiscal Year 2020, including salary and benefits for the district judge position and other costs, including salary and benefits for a court reporter, will total approximately \$256,650 in general funds since the start date for these positions will be October 1, 2019.

Contact:

Jason Slade Spillman, Legal Counsel, Administrative Office of the Courts
Barry Wood, Senior District Judge
(208) 334-2246

DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).