

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS26790

Idaho Code 42-1607 establishes that the owners of flowing artesian wells that waste water without beneficial use are responsible to prevent the waste of water through repair or, if necessary, plugging the wells. The Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) has stated that it intends to activate initiatives to repair or plug flowing artesian wells. This proposed legislation removes outdated language in the statute, while maintaining the option for the Director to implement a cost-share program. The statute will continue to recognize that the owners of the flowing artesian wells have the responsibility for repairing or plugging the wells.

FISCAL NOTE

There will be no impact on the general fund because the proposed legislative amendment is limited to clarifying or correcting language in the statute. Although the amendment retains language about possible cost-sharing, this proposed bill does not suggest an appropriation from the general fund. Funds within IDWR may be used for a possible cost-sharing program.

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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).