STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS27531C1 / S1345

This legislation adds a new chapter, 17, to title 22 of Idaho Code to enact the Industrial Hemp Research and Development Act, which provides legislative intent, defines hemp, and permits any persons or institutions of higher education in Idaho to grow, cultivate, harvest, sample, test, research, process, transport, transfer, take possession of, sell, import and export hemp or hemp products containing .3% or less of tetrahydrocannabinols (THC) in the state to the greatest extent allowed under federal law as outlined in the Federal Farm Bill of 2018. It also amends sections of Title 37, including the Schedule 1, to revise a definition, define a term, provide an exception for industrial hemp containing .3% or less of tetrahydrocannabinols (THC), and provide a correct code reference. Finally, it adds a new section 67-2921 to provide for the transportation of industrial hemp.

FISCAL NOTE

One time start-up costs include: \$100,000 for the Idaho State Department of Agriculture to coordinate planning efforts with stakeholders such as growers, processors, the Idaho State Police, and others and to contract with experts to develop a US Department of Agriculture-compliant Industrial Hemp State Plan with the goal of having the State Plan approved by the USDA for the fall 2020 growing season; \$50,000 for additional contracting needs specific to the USDA requirements and other program start-up expenses. As it is unknown to what extent Idaho growers and entrepreneurs will invest in growing and processing hemp, it is anticipated that initial plant and oil samples will be sent to a lab that utilizes approved testing standards. North Dakota compliance testing is \$115 per sample. Current and ongoing costs will be offset by grower, transporter and processor fees as determined by rule. Ongoing costs for program planning, coordination, informational sessions, and plan compliance will be determined based upon State Plan needs with an expectation the Department may need to request a supplemental budget appropriation for 2021.

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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).