

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS29532 / S1333

This bill would add a new district judge position in the Fourth Judicial District, and require that a district judge be chambered in Elmore County, beginning October 1, 2022. The last new district judge positions in the Fourth Judicial District were created in 2019 and 2013. The population of the Treasure Valley continues to experience explosive growth and the felony case workload of the Fourth Judicial District courts has also grown. In addition, the Fourth Judicial District is currently struggling to maintain judicial staffing for its very large felony drug courts, presenting a risk to their on-going stability. To this point, the judiciary has been able to keep pace with the use of senior judges and by having active judges from other districts hear Fourth District cases. 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 felony 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 2023, including salary and benefits for the district judge position and other costs, including the salary and benefits for a court reporter as required by section 1-1101, Idaho Code, will total approximately \$277,000 in general funds since the start date for these positions will be October 1, 2022.

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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).