

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS30416 / H0219

This legislation makes the following amendments to the Armed Forces and Public Safety Officer Scholarship.

- Codifies current and past practice for how Idaho residency is determined.
- Increases the allowance for books, equipment and supplies from \$500 to \$750 per semester. This amount was last increased 21 years ago from \$200 to \$500.
- Extends the time period for eligibility from 10 years to 19 years after occurrence of the qualifying event, and makes the effective date retroactive to July 1, 2022.
- Makes a technical correction regarding the determination of disability for members of the Armed Forces. Currently, the statute references disability determinations made by the United States Social Security Administration (SSA) and determinations made by the Idaho Division of Veterans Services. However, the Idaho Division of Veterans Services does not make disability determinations, so the proposed amendment would remove that reference. Disability determinations made by the Veterans Affairs Administration (VA) apply a different standard from that used by SSA and PERSI (which applies to public safety officers). Under SSA and PERSI determinations of disability, the individual is prevented from engaging in any occupation or employment. Removing the reference to the Division of Veterans Services ensures that disability determinations are internally consistent when applied to Armed Forces and Public Safety Officer applicants.

## FISCAL NOTE

The average number of scholarships awarded over the past seven years is 11. Using this average and assuming it remains constant, increasing the allowance for books, equipment and supplies from \$500 to \$750 would cost \$5,500 annually.

### Contact:

Representative Chris Mathias  
(208) 332-1000

**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).