

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS24071

The proposed legislation is necessary for Idaho to submit an application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requesting authorization to implement a state National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program. Idaho Code 39-175C directs the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to submit a complete application, consistent with the requirements of the clean water act, by September 1, 2016. The application will request authorization for what will be known as the Idaho Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (IPDES) program. The proposed legislation ensures DEQ has the authorities required by EPA for IPDES regulation of dairy and beef cattle operations.

FISCAL NOTE

To the extent any dairy farms or beef cattle animal feeding operations are regulated by EPA under the clean water act's discharge program, those facilities would instead be regulated by DEQ under an approved IPDES program. While the IPDES program will be partially supported by permit fees, no fees will be imposed for dairy farms or beef cattle animal feeding operations. Therefore, the costs to such facilities should not increase under the proposed legislation. There will be costs to the State of Idaho to implement this aspect of the IPDES program. The anticipated annual cost is \$4,500 per year based on current conditions with zero facilities permitted or \$40,000 per year if 28 facilities are permitted (this represents 10 percent of the listed CAFO's in the state). These costs are built into the overall IPDES program cost estimate of \$3M annually and 29 full-time employees.

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