

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS24908

Currently, a retired teacher 62 years of age or older and who is not receiving a reduced benefit pursuant to Section 59-1346, Idaho Code, for early retirement, may return to work at any time, regardless of the length of the break in service, and not have their Public Employee Retirement System of Idaho (PERSI) benefit reduced.

As part of the work being done by the State Board of Education to identify strategies for addressing teacher shortage areas and streamline Idaho's teacher certification requirements, the Board identified age restriction as one barrier to hiring retired teachers to fill some positions, particularly in rural school districts where they may only have the capacity for teachers to work on a part time basis. In an example of a part-time position, the individual may not be able to afford to return to work on a part-time basis if the teacher were to have a reduction in their retirement benefit. The proposed amendment to Section 59-1356, Idaho Code would reduce the age from 62 to 60 and thereby allow these individuals to return to work with a school district without a reduction in their retirement benefits. While this change will impact only a small number of individuals, it could make a large difference to a school district who may otherwise find it necessary to hire a less qualified individual.

FISCAL NOTE

There would be no fiscal impact from the proposed legislation. Those members who meet the age requirement and elect to continue to receive benefits and not accrue additional service are not required to make contributions to the retirement fund; however, the school district is required to make the employer contribution for such individuals. This practice would be unchanged and continue, resulting in no fiscal impact to the state. The employer contribution assures the PERSI fund remains whole.

Contact:

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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).