

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS26453

This proposed amendment to Idaho Code 19-850, 19-851 and 19-862A changes the terms "grant" to "financial assistance" and "application" to "compliance proposal." These amendments help establish the State's commitment to support compliance with Indigent Defense Standards as promulgated by the State Public Defense Commission. This provides assurance to the counties, who have been mandated to provide constitutionally-sound indigent defense services, that the appropriation of state monies will continue. The term "grant" implies that this funding is temporary and will eventually end, leaving the financial burden of providing constitutionally-sound indigent defense services on the counties, who have already reached their levy limits. In order to achieve successful reform of Idaho's indigent defense system, cooperation of the counties is absolutely necessary, and these amendments are critical in that respect.

FISCAL NOTE

There is no fiscal impact as the State Public Defense Commission is already appropriated monies for indigent defense financial assistance through indigent defense grants.

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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).