

REVISED

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS30908C1 / S1292

This legislation removes the responsibility of the Office of the Attorney General to provide legal representation to the Idaho Department of Lands and allows the Department to hire or contract its own legal counsel.

FISCAL NOTE

Enactment of this legislation would allow the Idaho Department of Lands to hire a general counsel to represent the Department. It is estimated that a total of three attorneys and one support staff would be required to adequately represent the Department. The total estimated cost would be an additional 4.00 FTP and \$637,000 for a Lead Attorney position, for two Attorney 2 positions, and for a Legal Assistant position. Included is \$514,500 for Personnel Costs, \$100,000 for ongoing Operating Expenditure, and \$22,500 for one-time Capital Outlay. Spending would be split between the Endowment Earnings Reserve Fund (50%), the Idaho Department of Lands Fund (25%), and the General Fund (25%).

A corresponding reduction in attorney staff at the Office of the Attorney General could also be made with a reduction of -3.00 FTP and -\$379,400 in General Fund Personnel Costs.

The legislation allows the Idaho Department of Lands to continue to contract with the Office of the Attorney General. Unforeseen legal costs at the Department could require future supplemental appropriations. Also, a reduction in billings for the Idaho Department of Lands to the Statewide Cost Recovery Fund would not occur until FY 2027.

Enactment of the bill would reduce overall spending in the outyears as well as decrease General Fund spending; however, there would also be an increase in spending from dedicated funds at the Idaho Department of Lands.

Overall estimated spending impact due to enactment over the next five years, assuming a reduction in funding at the Office of the Attorney General, are as follows: FY 2025, \$257,600; FY 2026, \$265,300; FY 2027, -\$173,000; FY 2026, -\$178,200; and FY 2027, -\$183,500.

Contact:

Senator Mark Harris
(208) 332-1341
Representative Megan Blanksma
(208) 332-1120

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).