

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS25231C1

A random review of 22 districts in Idaho's 2015 School Board Elections, including districts of varying sizes, shows voter turnout of less than 12% in half of the districts, and seven of those districts had turnouts in single digits: 1, 3, 4%, etc. To improve voter participation, this bill takes the following actions: 1. Changes the school board election date from May of odd years, to the General Election in November of even years. 2. Requires the alignment of trustee zones with county voting precincts, to the extent possible, which will help streamline ballot creation and reduce polling place errors. 3. Gives local school boards the option to retain voting by zones or choose district-wide voting.

FISCAL NOTE

According to the SOS's office, there will be no impact to the state general fund. Any fiscal impact will be at the county level. District-wide voting, if chosen, will save money, as will aligning trustee zones with voter precincts, because fewer ballot faces will be required in the election.

Contact:

Senator Mary Souza
(208) 332-1322
Senator Jim Rice
(208) 332-1330

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).