

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS26177

The purpose of this legislation is to establish the GEM (Guided Education Management) Scholarship Act. The legislation creates GEM Scholarships to pay for qualified education expenses for (i) students from low-income families, (ii) students with special needs, (iii) students who are at-risk, or (iv) children of active duty military. Criteria for services considered qualified education expenses and entities providing those services is identified in the legislation. The legislation also sets forth criteria for a Scholarship Granting Organization to oversee funds received for GEM Scholarships and administering GEM Scholarships with individual students.

FISCAL NOTE

This bill will have no fiscal impact to the general fund. Those students receiving GEM Scholarships will not be enrolled as full-time students in the public school system of Idaho, so no general funds will be appropriated by the State to a public school to educate a GEM Scholarship recipient. The State Board of Education is tasked with selecting at least one, and no more than three, Scholarship Granting Organizations and reviewing an SGO's annual reports, but this should not require an additional FTE.

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).