

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS26258

Idaho law allows for a panel of district judges to order a city to provide for the adequate quarters and operation of the magistrate division of the district court. Several cities have entered into voluntary funding agreements with their respective counties to fund magistrate court operations; however, other cities and counties have litigated over the responsibility of cities to fund magistrate court operations. This legislation seeks to resolve conflict between cities and counties over magistrate court funding and is the recommendation of a collaborative working group of city and county officials as well as staff from the Administrative Office of the Court.

This legislation proposes diverting six dollars (\$6.00) of the district court fee for civil filings, misdemeanors and felonies, and infractions from the state general fund to the various county district court funds to be dedicated to the magistrate division of the district court. An additional one dollar (\$1.00) of the district court fee will be diverted from the state general fund to Police Officers Standard and Training Council (POST) in order to hold POST harmless.

In addition, fifteen percent (15%) of the local share of state liquor funds will be apportioned to the various counties and dedicated to the district court fund to be dedicated to the magistrate division of the district court. The liquor fund apportionment will be phased in over five years (5).

Lastly, the obligation of any city currently providing funding to counties for the magistrate division of the district court will be reduced by twenty percent (20%) a year over the next five years (5). The legislation repeals Section 1-2218, Idaho Code, in 2023, at which point the obligation of cities to provide for magistrate division of the district court will be relieved.

FISCAL NOTE

The district court fee diversion will reduce funds to the state general fund by an estimated \$1,507,344. The district court diversion will provide \$1,507,344 in new revenues to counties to fund the magistrate division of the district court and \$5,024.48 in new revenues to POST.

Additionally, upon full implementation, \$7,427,423 will be allocated to the various county district court funds from the local liquor fund distribution.

The total amount of magistrate court funding from all sources is estimated to be \$8,834,767.

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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).