

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

### RS24508

The purpose of this legislation is to improve the delivery of trial-level indigent defense services by providing funding to counties and creating standards with which counties must comply. It is the product of the Public Defense Reform Interim Committee, which studied the issue for three years at the direction of the Legislative Council.

The legislation establishes the guiding principles for provision of public defender services in Idaho. In pertinent part, the bill requires the Public Defense Commission to promulgate rules regarding: procedures for the creation, oversight, implementation, enforcement, and modification of indigent defense standards; requirements for contracts between counties and private attorneys for the provision of indigent defense services; data reporting requirements; procedures for grant applications by which counties can apply for state funds to offset the cost of compliance with indigent defense standards; and procedures for administrative review of commission decisions.

### FISCAL NOTE

The total fiscal impact of the bill in FY 2017 amounts to \$5,482,800 from the General Fund as follows: \$4,266,500 for formulaic grants to counties to offset the cost of compliance with indigent defense standards; \$550,000 to incentivize counties to merge their services and form joint public defender offices; \$250,000 for additional funding to counties for extraordinary litigation costs; and \$368,700 in personnel costs, \$34,200 in operating expenditures, \$13,400 in one-time capital outlay, and 4.50 FTP for the Public Defense Commission.

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