

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS25439C1

Idaho is in the midst of an unprecedented teacher shortage and children in rural areas of the state are bearing the brunt of the pain. From mid-2015 to 2016, Idaho's population increased by 1.8, making it the third fastest growing state in the country. The growth is predicted to continue, yet the number of certified teachers has declined dramatically in recent years. In 2009, 1,380 teachers left the classroom, and 2,001 new teachers became certified. By 2014, those numbers had flipped, with 1,979 teachers leaving, and only 934 new teachers becoming certified. In 2009, 8,393 students entered Idaho public, private and alternative teacher training programs, but by 2013, that number diminished to 5,397, and the number of out of state teachers seeking an Idaho teaching certificate went from 898 down to just 68, and the trend continues.

Idaho is working on a variety of responses to give schools the much needed relief they need. One tool is to allow schools to hire teachers that may be highly qualified, but not necessarily certified. This bill would allow charter schools with a proven track record of high performance to hire teachers with professional expertise, who are qualified to teach at the college level, or who hold a degree in the field in which they would be teaching, regardless of certification.

FISCAL NOTE

This will have an impact on the general fund of \$37,000 plus benefits for each new teacher hired when the career ladder is fully implemented in 2019.

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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).