STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS23774

At present Idaho's anti-bullying law is solely punitive, providing that an offense "may" be an infraction. The proposed legislation provides for inclusion of anti-bullying content in district, teacher and staff training and orientations to help staff recognize and most appropriately intervene should bullying occur. It also specifies a role for school superintendents and principals in informing staff and students through student hand books and other means that bullying is prohibited and to convey what constitutes bullying to further ensure all are aware of school district policy. It is the intent of this legislation to make it clear that school personnel are authorized to intervene where they see incidents of bullying to further prevent harm to students and ensure all parties recognize bullying, harassment and intimidation when it occurs.

FISCAL NOTE

It is anticipated that this legislation will not increase the cost to the State's General Fund as it is expected that the statute will be carried out within the existing framework of the State Department of Education and In-Service Trainings that occur in the school districts. Funds have been allocated for the purpose of developing and implementing school safety improvements pursuant to Sections 63-2506, 63-2552A, 63-3035A and 63-3067 of Idaho Code, and such funds may be utilized to cover any minimal additional training costs resulting from this legislation.

Contact:

Representative Ilana Rubel
(208) 332-1034
Representative Patrick McDonald
(208) 332-1176