

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS32124 / H0139

This legislation sets specific requirements for the use of absentee ballots. With the increased use of absentee ballots as high as 49% in the 2024 election, it is important that we specify the reason and purpose for the use of absentee ballots. The original intent of the absentee was to provide access to voters who were physically unable to vote for reasons beyond their control: physical infirmity, illness, work restrictions, and the like. The ballot was never intended as a convenience, as it has most recently become. Broadening the use of absentee ballots also opens Idaho up to potential voter fraud, as the Commission on Federal Election Reform declared "absentee ballots remain the largest source of potential voter fraud." This legislation addresses those issues by eliminating no-excuse absentee ballots, while preserving the rights of those unable to vote in person because of reasons beyond their control.

FISCAL NOTE

This legislation causes no increase or decrease in revenue, or additional expenditure of funds at the state or local level of government; therefore, this legislation has no fiscal impact.

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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).