

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS32162 / H0154

This bill modernizes Idaho's building inspection process by authorizing virtual inspections, improving efficiency in permitting and compliance. It allows state and local government inspectors to conduct virtual inspections using electronic or visual aids, reducing delays while maintaining safety standards. However, virtual inspections are restricted for structural assessments of buildings three stories or higher to ensure structural integrity. Additionally, the bill establishes inspection timeliness requirements. If an inspection request is not completed within 15 business days, the permit holder may hire a third-party inspector, with costs reimbursed by the responsible government entity. It also provides a fee refund mechanism, ensuring that if an inspection fails but no reason is provided within three days, the permit holder receives a 10% refund of applicable fees. These provisions promote accountability, efficiency, and fairness in Idaho's building inspection system.

FISCAL NOTE

The implementation of virtual inspections is expected to reduce administrative burdens and improve efficiency, potentially lowering operational costs for state and local inspection agencies. However, there may be initial expenses related to training and technology adoption for virtual inspections. The inspection timeliness reimbursement and fee refund provisions could impose moderate financial liabilities on state and local governments if delays or administrative errors occur frequently. However, these provisions also create strong incentives for agencies to process inspections in a timely manner, ultimately improving efficiency and reducing costly project delays for businesses and homeowners. Funding for these changes will primarily come from existing permit and inspection fee collections, with no additional state appropriations required.

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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).