

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS32357C1 / H0308

Idaho's campaign finance laws, also known as the sunshine laws, were originally enacted in 1974 by a citizen initiative to increase transparency regarding money spent on political campaigns and lobbying. This legislation updates and reorganizes the campaign finance laws to increase transparency, simplify reporting, and improve enforcement to better align with increased spending and modern practices in political campaigns.

The legislation reorganizes the campaign finances laws by moving the provisions from Title 67, Chapter 66, State Government and State Affairs, to Title 74, Chapter 3, Transparent and Ethical Government. This new chapter separates the reporting requirements and responsibilities into five parts. It also separates the reporting requirements for campaign finance from the reporting requirements for lobbying.

Additionally, the legislation makes several changes designed to increase the frequency of reporting, adjust the campaign finance limitations, and improve enforcement by creating an improved fine structure.

FISCAL NOTE

This legislation will require one (1) full-time equivalent (FTE) position for an Investigator within the Secretary of State's office. The position has an hourly wage of \$32 (\$66,560 annually), with total personnel costs, including health insurance and variable benefits, amounting to \$94,300. Additionally, there are one-time capital outlay costs of \$5,000. While these costs will need to come from the General Fund, it is expected that they will be covered by additional fine revenue that will be deposited to the General Fund, resulting in zero cost to the General Fund.

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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).