

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS19537C1

This legislation would change section 18-501 Idaho Code relating to felony injury to a child. By adding an aggravated circumstance and increasing the maximum penalty to 20 years in cases where there is great bodily harm, permanent disability or permanent disfigurement to the child, our judges will have the flexibility to award stiffer penalties when the situation warrants such action.

FISCAL NOTE

There would likely be no increase to the general fund in the first few years, but if longer sentences are handed down it could in future years add additional costs to the Department of Corrections. There are currently 176 incarcerated inmates who have been convicted of felony injury to a child. Of those approximately one third or 58 inmates received the maximum sentence. There is no way we can know a definite number of increased costs. The department estimates those increased costs two (2) years after implementation could be as low as \$68,000 per year and as high as \$236,000 depending upon how many convictions and how many of those convicted receive the maximum penalty.

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