STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS20008

The purpose of this legislation is to grant the State Board of Education the authority to set fees, including tuition fees, for all resident and nonresident students attending the University of Idaho. This legislation is in response to voter approval of SJR 101 in the 2010 general election to allow the University of Idaho to charge tuition fees and tuition, consistent with authority currently provided for the state's other higher education institutions. The purpose of this legislation is not to increase student fees. Rather, it is designed to clarify the purposes for which those funds may be used. The reason this legislation is needed is that the current law restricts the ability of the University of Idaho to charge tuition. Since the fees collected from the students cannot be used for instructional costs, the students cannot have their fees used to support core instructional activities, i.e., faculty salaries, additional faculty, library support, etc.

FISCAL NOTE

Under current law, University of Idaho student fees only can be used for designated purposes. The intent of this legislation is not designed to increase student fees, but rather to provide greater flexibility to the University of Idaho with respect to the use of fees to fund educational and instructional costs. This legislative proposal is not intended to increase student fees more than otherwise might occur. Accordingly, there will be no fiscal impact to the General Fund.

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