

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS20182

The Judicial Council is a seven member body consisting of three attorneys, one of whom is a district judge, appointed by the Board of Commissioners of the Idaho Bar with the consent of the Senate; three non-attorney members appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Senate; and the Chief Justice, who serves as chairman. The Council's duties include conducting studies for the improvement of the administration of justice; making regular reports to the Supreme Court and the Legislature; submitting the names of not less than two and not more than four qualified candidates to the Governor for appointment to vacancies on the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals and district court bench; and recommending the removal or discipline of judicial officers. The independence of the Judicial Council is essential to the performance of its functions. This bill provides the Judicial Council shall prepare its own annual budget request and that the Supreme Court shall include that request in its own budget request without any changes. This is the procedure that is currently followed. Requiring this procedure by statute will ensure the continued independence and impartiality of the Judicial Council.

FISCAL NOTE

This bill would have no impact on the general fund.

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