

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS20178

The Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board is a dedicated fund agency operating almost exclusively from license fees paid by outfitters and guides. The Board does not receive general fund monies. The most recent increase in license fees approved in 2004 was fully implemented by the 2008 license year. The Board works to spend only to the level of the revenue it generates. It simply follows the business principle, "do not spend more than you make." In the future, to avoid compromising its ability to meet its legal obligations to the industry and the public, the Board needs sufficient revenue to do so. Being proposed is a five year stepped increase for outfitter, designated agent and guide license fees that would be implemented beginning July 1, 2011 (FY 12). Examples of efficiencies implemented since that last request for funding in 2004, to save money, time and agency resources include: Streamlining by the use of an on-line licensing system has significantly reduced staff's time involved in processing industry applications. Improved data systems to maintain accuracy of outfitters use, thereby requiring less time to track historic activity for hunt outfitters, especially those outfitters involved with utilizing allocated deer and elk tags. Eliminating rigid reporting requirements for guide training, first aid training, and selling a licensed business. Cooperative activities with IDFG and IRTI including enforcement and data management. Board minutes, handbooks, forms, statute & rules are all available on-line (IOGLB Website) which lessens the Board's print/copy budget. The IOGLB has maintained its office space rent significantly below that of other state agencies. Staff have been cross-trained to better assist the industry and the public; substantially reducing the need for hiring of temporary office help during busier times of the year. Disciplinary processes have been streamlined and improved to bring issues before the Board in a timely manner, and to insure public safety. Additional cost savings measures the Board is considering are: Restructuring its Education & Enforcement Division. Consolidation of offices with other state agency (IDPR) Restructuring the use of Board's contract attorney Use of "hearing officers" when needed in order to reduce the Board's overall legal expenses With improved administrative efficiencies now in place and because staff are realistically the only remaining areas other than those outlined above where substantive cuts can occur, the Board hopes to avert cuts to customer service and regulatory enforcement with this request. This legislation will allow the Board a higher level of flexibility in maintaining its statutory obligations to outfitters, guides and to the public. With this legislation, the Board also hopes to remove language from the law establishing by rule policies to refund unused application fees, a fee credit for electric filing of applications and a fee to be charge for the use of credit cards. These changes will allow the Board to absorb minimal costs and help address inefficiencies resulting in a cost savings to the agency and to the Office of State Controller.

FISCAL NOTE

This legislation going into effect July 1, 2011 (FY 2012) incrementally increases the Board's dedicated fund revenue first available in FY 13 by approximately \$25,000 and then proportionally over the subsequent four fiscal years dependent on the types and number of licenses issued. Once fully implemented in 2016 it is estimated this request will generate approximately an additional \$50,000 annual total. Refunds equate to less than \$1000 annually, the fee credit has been incorporated into existing on-line/off line license fees and the agency absorbs credit card fees of approximately \$5000 annually. The overall affect will avert financial difficulties projected by FY 13.

Contact:

Statement of Purpose / Fiscal Note

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