STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS22324

This legislation provides that the state of Idaho may exercise its authority to exempt state Capitol Mall property from the statutory provisions of city planning and zoning processes. The 2012 Legislature approved the development of a parking garage to relieve a critical and longstanding shortage of parking in the Capitol Mall for visitors, officials and employees. The project has a strict design review and construction timetable, and bonds have already been sold to cover the original design and construction estimates. However, state Public Works officials, in trying to work through the city planning and zoning process, are experiencing repeated design review rejections and associated appeals processes which are causing critical delays, and threaten to increase the cost of the project, require additional appropriations to complete, or will reduce the scope of the project approved by the Legislature. Because the Legislature is in session only three months of the year, it has only a brief window to respond to decisions at the local level that may impact the project, or face an entire year of delay until the next legislative session begins. This experience developing the parking garage has highlighted the need to address not only the incompatible timetables, but also reexamine the proper role and responsibility of local planning and zoning processes in the development of state facilities, on state property, within the state Capitol Mall.

The state will continue to work with the City of Boise in a cooperative manner on all Capitol Mall projects, but the exemption may be authorized by the state Permanent Building Fund Advisory Council if the state is unable to reach agreements with Boise City, the result of which could impact the successful completion of a state authorized project.

FISCAL NOTE

There is no direct fiscal impact with this legislation, however the enactment of this legislation could prevent costly delays and the requirement for additional appropriations to complete the Capitol Mall parking garage authorized by the 2012 Legislature with HCR 47, and could save time and resources on future Capitol Mall projects as well.

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