STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS22653

The purpose of this legislation is to provide for the establishment of a State Public Defender Commission. The legislation establishes the Commission, outlines the powers and duties of the Commission, authorizes the establishment of a State Public Defense Commission Fund, establishes the parameters for the establishment of Public Defense in Idaho counties, and revises I.C. 19-860 in regards to term, compensation, appointment, and qualifications of public defenders. The legislation is the result of the Public Defense Reform Interim Committee following three years of study by a subcommittee of the Idaho Criminal Justice Commission.

FISCAL NOTE

The fiscal impact to the General Fund is $300,000. These monies are to be used for the establishment of the State Public Defender Commission which includes up to 1.5 FTE, office expenses, commission members travel expense, and training expenses for Idaho's public defenders.

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