STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS23291

The Idaho Industrial Commission currently has authority to ensure a safe workplace for places of public employment, as well as perform logging safety inspections. Through written agreement, the Division of Building Safety currently assists the Commission with its responsibilities in these areas by performing inspections, creating reports, and providing other administrative services when necessary. This legislation clarifies the scope of workplace safety inspections and programs, as well as transfers all existing statutory responsibilities related thereto to the Division of Building Safety, the majority of which they already perform pursuant to agreement. Further, this proposal identifies the continued use of the Industrial Commission's Administration Fund to fund the Division of Building Safety's inspections of public buildings, public schools and the logging safety training programs.

This legislation will transfer to the Division of Building Safety the existing authority to conduct logging safety inspections and training for logging operations in Idaho, and permit the Administrator to compel compliance with safety standards where evidence reveals a logging workplace safety condition that poses an immediate threat of serious bodily harm or loss of life to employees or members of the public. Similarly, it retains existing authority which provides for enforcement of that order and makes a knowing violation of such a safety order a misdemeanor.

This legislation also authorizes the Administrator of the Division of Building Safety to conduct safety inspections of buildings owned or maintained by other political subdivisions of the state upon receipt of a written request from the governing body of that political subdivision, subject to the availability of Division resources and an agreement by the political subdivision to pay the Division's established fees for those inspections. The findings of these inspections shall be reported to the governing body of the political subdivision.

FISCAL NOTE

There is no fiscal impact to the General Fund. The anticipated fiscal impact is neutral to the Industrial Commission's dedicated fund as well as the Division of Building Safety's dedicated funds. The legislature has annually appropriated funds for the logging safety program and inspections of public buildings and public schools conducted by the Division of Building Safety, through a fund shift from the Industrial Commission since FY1989. The logging safety program as well as annual public building and public school inspections will continue to be performed by the Division of Building Safety at existing levels.

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