

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

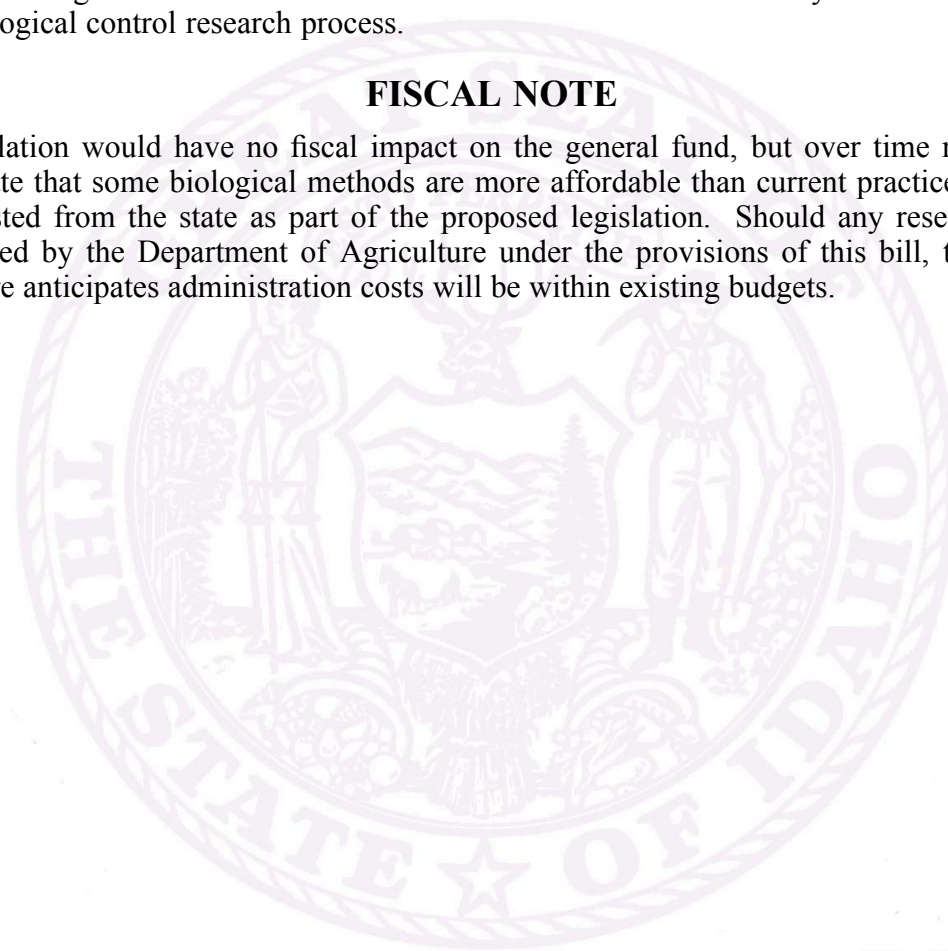
RS23484

The purpose of this legislation is to facilitate research on biological control methods for noxious weeds. The amendments authorize the Idaho State Department of Agriculture Director to allow for the collection, removal and movement of noxious weeds from infested areas to in-state facilities for the purpose of biological control research under a set of controlled provisions.

Noxious weeds threaten the economic, recreational, ecological, and aesthetic uses of land and of water bodies throughout Idaho. Biological control is recognized as an important component of integrated management of noxious weeds. The amendments are necessary to remove roadblocks to the biological control research process.

FISCAL NOTE

This legislation would have no fiscal impact on the general fund, but over time research may demonstrate that some biological methods are more affordable than current practices. No funds are requested from the state as part of the proposed legislation. Should any research projects be approved by the Department of Agriculture under the provisions of this bill, the Dept. of Agriculture anticipates administration costs will be within existing budgets.



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