

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

### RS24342

The proposed legislation changes how school board elections are conducted by requiring trustees to live in their zones, but allowing all voters in the school district to vote on each trustee. As in county commissioner races, with this change there will still be representation from each of the school district zones, but all voters in the district will be eligible to participate in the election.

This measure will improve accuracy in voting in school board elections. Because voting precincts and taxing districts do not match zone boundaries there have been issues with voters who are in a precinct but not the trustee zone voting in trustee elections.

A review of 22 districts in Idaho's 2015 School Board Elections, including districts of varying sizes, shows voter turnout of less than 12 percent in half of the districts, and seven of those districts had turnouts in single digits: 1, 3, 4 percent, etc. With this change Boards will more accurately reflect the will of school district patrons.

### FISCAL NOTE

The Secretary of State's Election Office predicts a cost savings from this legislation because, currently, administering separate zone ballots in a school board election is more costly than including all voters in the school district, which, as a complete taxing entity, is a more easily incorporated data base.

#### Contact:

Senator Mary Souza  
Senator Jim Rice  
(208) 332-1000