

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS26135C1

This Joint Resolution proposes amendments to Section 22, Article I of the Idaho Constitution, relating to the rights of crime victims. It states the question to the electorate, "Shall Section 22, Article I, of the Constitution of the State of Idaho be amended to provide additional rights to crime victims, including the right to reasonable and timely notification of open criminal justice proceedings, reasonable protection from the accused, the right to be heard at certain open criminal justice proceedings, and to provide standing to assert their rights?" It directs Legislative Council to prepare statements required by Section 67-453, Idaho Code, and file the same, and directs the Secretary of State to publish the proposed amendment and arguments as required by law.

FISCAL NOTE

There may be some fiscal impact to state and local government, but it is very difficult to quantify. There could be increased costs associated with providing notice to the victim of the additional covered aspects of the criminal justice proceedings. Prosecutors and courts are familiar with the notice process in the existing system. Most of the additional notices can be handled by the existing Victims Information Notification Everyday program, or VINE Network, and there may be some general fund impact for state agencies to update systems. There may be some additional cost associated with time in criminal justice proceedings where the victim elects to provide a statement or information or in continuing the matter if a notice is not provided. An independent economic analysis on a similar proposal for Idaho estimated the high end of costs could be around \$553,000 annually for counties and local government to implement, but this was under a more expansive definition of "crime victim" and did not include provisions clarifying the notification system to be opt-in. The estimate reflects a total for all of Idaho, but researchers determined the actual price tag would likely be less because many counties would find ways to collaborate and share resources to meet victim notification requirements. There is an estimated cost to the General Fund of \$205,000 for the Idaho Secretary of State to publish the proposed amendment and arguments to the electorate as required by law, and there should be no impact to local units of government as they will be holding a regularly scheduled election.

Contact:

Senator Todd Lakey
(208) 332-1328
Representative Brent J. Crane
(208) 332-1000

DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).