

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

### RS26297

The goal of this legislation is to improve Foster Care and Child Protection Services in Idaho. This legislation reflects recommendations and information provide during two years of focus by the Interim Foster Care Committee, as well as information provided by three separate reports on at-risk and foster care children in Idaho by the Office of Performance Evaluation. This is a first step to begin providing more structure and oversight to cases and issues in this complex system. The bill is designed to do the following things: Preserve sibling connections in foster care; strengthen support services for newly reunified families in foster care; establish a system for increased accountability for child welfare outcomes through the use of Citizen Review Panels; enhance procedures that guide investigations of suspected child abuse and neglect; establish an oversight committee to begin to bring a systems perspective to multi-faceted and disparate child protection efforts; and specifically clarify the process and standard for contesting foster care and permanency placement.

### FISCAL NOTE

The fiscal impact is \$88,000 from the General Fund. Of this amount \$32,000 is for ongoing support for the Citizen Review Panels; \$50,000 for one-time training dollars; and \$6,000 for the Department of Health & Welfare to provide access to foster care cases. From existing funds, \$2,000 is to be allocated to support the Oversight Committee, and \$20,000 in Child Abuse Protection Treatment Act (CAPTA) federal funds will also be used to support these efforts.

#### Contact:

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**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).**