

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS26455

The Idaho Licensing Board of Professional Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapists is proposing legislation to move educational program and practicum requirements for licensed professional counselors and licensed professional clinical counselors from statute and allow the Board to establish these requirements in rule. This would allow the Board to approve educational programs based on accreditation standards, regardless of the specific number of semester hours required, and create more flexibility for practicum requirements. These changes were identified by the Board as a way to reduce barriers to licensure and provide more flexibility to applicants.

The Board is also proposing to increase the statutory fee caps for the original license, application, endorsement, and renewal fees from \$100 to \$175; to remove confusing language regarding the payment of fees; and to enable the Board to refund an original license fee to an applicant when a license is not issued.

FISCAL NOTE

There is no impact to the General Fund. The impact to the Idaho Bureau of Occupational Licenses' dedicated fund would be a reduction of approximately \$700 per year, which is based on the number of licenses that were not issued in the last year. There is no other fiscal impact because raising the fee cap in statute does not raise the fees.

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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).