

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS26952

The proposed legislation clarifies the existing guidance provided to family law judges with regards to child custody. By providing a clear starting point in custody cases - a rebuttable presumption of equal shared parenting for willing, fit, and able parents - custody decisions in Idaho will be more consistent, fair, and in the best interest of the child. The proposed legislation clarifies and expands factors to consider when determining what is in the best interest of the children. This provides the court with greater insight into each individual custody case to ensure that the need of the child to have a regular, consistent, stable and meaningful relationships with each parent is met. To ensure the healthiest environment for the child the proposed legislation expands the list of exceptions for extreme situations. The current statute contains an exception only for domestic violence. This legislation adds exceptions when a parent is found to have abused a child or if a parent is found to have committed custodial interference.

FISCAL NOTE

The proposed legislation is an administrative change and will have no fiscal impact on the General Fund or any local government funds.

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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).