

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS28269 / H0077

The Reasonable Childhood Independence Act. Currently, Idaho's open-ended definition of neglect leaves parents exposed to frivolous allegations of neglect or even unnecessary actions taken by authorities. As the law stands, parents could get into trouble just for letting their kids play outside. This Act will protect families across the economic spectrum by affirming parents' right to let their kids: 1) Walk to and from school and other places 2) Play outside 3) Be home alone for a reasonable amount of time 4) Remain in a vehicle if it isn't dangerously hot or cold 5) Engage in similar independent activities except if the parent is showing conscious disregard of a child's safety. The proposed law clarifies that child neglect be defined as actually putting kids in obvious danger or denying them truly necessary care and does not include normal actions by parents for encouraging reasonable childhood independence activities.

FISCAL NOTE

This will have no projected impact on the general fund as it requires no resources and may in fact free up resources currently used in unnecessary investigations of neglect complaints. Likewise, there will be no fiscal impact on local entities as it requires no additional resources.

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).