

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS28415 / S1109

This legislation authorizes and creates the Idaho Promise mentor program to be administered by the State Board of Education. Under the program, volunteer mentors will build relationships with Idaho high school students and their families, veterans, and other adults (“mentees”) to help them overcome financial and other barriers to earning postsecondary apprenticeships, job training certificates and associate and associate of applied science degrees. These career-ready credentials will qualify mentees for vacant, good paying Idaho jobs. The mentors will build relationships with mentees and their families and help mentees during the critical summer months following high school graduation when they no longer have access to high school counselors and have not yet connected with postsecondary program advisers. Current data show that about 4,000 graduating high school seniors who plan to enroll in postsecondary programs the following fall do not do so. The mentors will also help mentees and their families apply for Pell grants and other sources of funding, from which many will learn that programs they believed were beyond their financial ability are, in fact, within reach.

FISCAL NOTE

The legislation authorizes the State Board of Education to accept grants, gifts, appropriations, and other funds in support of the mentor program. The legislation does not mandate any appropriations and consequently does not mandate any increase in future appropriations. Projected program costs total \$380,500 per year for administrative costs and for up to 7 employee and/or independent contractor mentor coordinators to recruit, train, assist and supervise volunteer mentors.

Contact:

Senator Grant Burgoyne
(208) 332-1409
Senator Janie Ward-Engelking
(208) 332-1425

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).