

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS31949C1 / H0114

It has become common practice in recent years for some candidates to file for office as a placeholder. Then after the primary, depending on the primary results, the placeholder may withdraw, to be replaced by a serious candidate chosen by party bosses, rather than the people through the primary election process.

This legislation will prevent that by limiting candidate withdrawals to the pre-primary period (except for independent candidates, whose only election is the general election). Once candidates have been selected by the voters through a primary election, they will remain that party's candidate in the general election unless they must be replaced due to death or legal disqualification.

This legislation also fixes a problem in Idaho's 1970s-era election law that says names on ballots can be replaced as close as 10 days prior to the election. In a world in which absentee ballots must be mailed to requesting voters by 45 days before the election, this is no longer feasible. Therefore, it changes the cutoff for ballot changes to 50 days before the election.

FISCAL NOTE

Based on the number of post-primary withdrawals of legislative candidates in the 2024 election cycle, it is expected that this legislation would result in a reduction of \$90 in state General Fund revenue every other year, due to there being three fewer new candidate filing fees of \$30 each.

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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).