

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS31858 / H0306

In the age of the internet and social media, malicious lies are increasingly capable of destroying the life and reputation of innocent people. To help prevent this problem from growing further, this legislation creates a felony crime of criminal libel. This would apply when a person publishes false statements about another person, knowing that the statements are false, or with reckless disregard as to whether they are true or false.

## FISCAL NOTE

Based on Wisconsin's experience with a similar law, Idaho could expect approximately one prosecution per year and one conviction for this crime every three years. As a non-violent felony, a suspended sentence and probation is the most likely sentencing outcome for a conviction. Probation costs would likely be \$2,700 per year, starting in FY27. As a very low frequency criminal prosecution, no additional prosecution staffing should be required.

### 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).**