

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS33555 / H0824

This bill revises Idaho's child custody laws to strengthen protections for fundamental parental rights and establish a presumption that substantially equal parenting time is in a child's best interest unless rebutted by clear and convincing evidence of substantial harm. It requires courts to hold evidentiary hearings and issue detailed written findings before restricting a parent's custody or parenting time, and it limits the use and duration of temporary, ex parte, or supervised visitation orders without proper findings. The bill creates structured "restoration plans" to ensure that any restricted parenting time is automatically returned once specific, objective conditions are met, and it mandates compensatory time when parenting time is wrongfully denied. It provides both parents equal access to their child's medical, educational, and other records regardless of custodial status, and clarifies standards for abuse investigations and the role of court-appointed professionals. Additionally, it defines key custody-related terms, establishes remedies for violations of the statutory protections, and updates related code sections to align with the new framework.

## FISCAL NOTE

This legislation causes no increase or decrease in revenue, or additional expenditure of funds at the state or local level of government; therefore, this legislation has no fiscal impact.

### Contact:

Representative Heather Scott  
Senator Tammy Nichols  
(208) 332-1000

**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).