

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS33654 / H0849

Under current law, industry professionals entering the K–12 system to teach in Career Technical Education (CTE) programs are placed on the Career Ladder at a level commensurate with their verified years of industry experience. However, once placed, these educators must receive four years of proficient or higher professional evaluations before advancing to the next rung of the Career Ladder. This legislation provides that eligible CTE educators may advance to the next Career Ladder rung after receiving one qualifying year of a proficient or higher professional evaluation. The legislation also extends this same placement and advancement structure to qualified Pupil Service Staff entering the K–12 system from the private sector. Licensed professionals—including, but not limited to, school psychologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, audiologists, school counselors, school social workers, speech language pathologists, and school nurses—will have their verified years of relevant professional experience recognized for initial Career Ladder placement and may advance after one year of a proficient or higher professional evaluation. This change ensures appropriate recognition of experienced professionals entering public education while maintaining accountability through Idaho’s professional evaluation standards.

FISCAL NOTE

The exact fiscal impact of this legislation cannot be determined. Based on prior similar legislation, the estimated worst-case impact is approximately \$150,000, which is equivalent to one support unit or approximately 0.005% of the Public Schools appropriation. Any costs incurred would be covered by the Public Education Stabilization Fund (PESF) until the Legislature adjusts the appropriation. Because Career Ladder apportionment is calculated using multiple factors and a statewide average of placements, any increase at an individual district or charter school may be offset when applied across the state. The worst-case estimate assumes all eligible instructional and pupil service staff meet the necessary criteria to generate the maximum potential cost, which may not occur in practice.

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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).