

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS32877C1 / S1343

This legislation will ensure that Idaho voters are able to vote for the replacement judge of their choice when a judge is about to retire. Currently, there is a practice where judges retire so early that their positions are vacated for such a length of time that an appointment is made to fill that vacancy. The appointed judge then becomes the incumbent judge at the next election and is almost guaranteed to be re-elected.

This legislation provides that judges must finish their terms if they want to participate in the Senior Judge program, which involves part-time work for judges after retirement. Idaho needs its judges to work part-time after retirement as Idaho's courts typically run at capacity. Judges will agree to these new rules when they file a declaration of candidacy for a new term. Prior to filing a declaration of candidacy for a new term, these new rules will not apply to a sitting judge.

FISCAL NOTE

There is no cost for this legislation other than updating the Idaho Code with this change in the law. The legislation does not increase nor decrease any costs for the judiciary but may reduce the turnover in the judicial branch.

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).