

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS33586 / S1365

Under the Idaho Sunshine Law, churches and other religious organizations that support or oppose ballot measures run the risk of being compelled to publicly report and disclose the names and addresses of church and community members that tithe or otherwise financially contribute to the church. The vague and overbroad disclosure and reporting requirements in the Idaho Sunshine Law impose a chilling effect on church speech, thereby discouraging churches from speaking faithfully on the important cultural issues that are implicated by ballot initiatives.

This legislation would clarify that churches are not non-business entities, as those terms are used in Chapter 66, Title 67, Idaho Code, and are therefore not subject to donor disclosure requirements under the Idaho Sunshine Law so long as the expenditures and contributions of the church does not exceed 10% of the church's total financial receipts.

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.

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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).