



For Immediate Release
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Legislation Would Provide Needed Flexibility for State Agencies

BOISE, Idaho – House Bill 101, which would provide flexibility for state agencies to employ attorneys other than those in the Attorney General’s Office, passed the House State Affairs Committee today (February 18). Currently, only certain state agencies may choose their own attorneys to represent the State of Idaho on their behalf. This bill, co-sponsored by Representatives John Vander Woude and Bruce D. Skaug, will extend the right to choose legal counsel to all state offices, boards, commissions, and entities.

“I support free market alternatives for legal services because competition tends to create a better product,” said Representative Skaug. “I anticipate most state agencies will continue to choose the services of our Attorney General’s Office. This bill adds a good option for our agencies.”

"Agencies need the opportunity to hire the right attorney for the right job," said Representative Vander Woude. "Let’s give them that freedom."

State agencies would still be able to obtain legal services from the Attorney General if they wish. Also, the Attorney General and the Board of Examiners would no longer be required to screen and prequalify attorneys who desire to perform contract legal services for the State of Idaho.

H101 now heads to the full House of Representatives for consideration.

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