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Idaho Supreme Court Approves Bar Exam Change

Applicants to the Idaho State Bar must now score 270 or higher on the bar exam in order to be admitted to practice as an attorney in this state.

A June 1 order of the Idaho Supreme Court sets a passing scaled score for the bar exam at 67.5% of the highest possible score, down by half a percentage point from the previous 68% (a score of 272). The change is effective starting with the July 2023 bar exam and may also be applied to results from Idaho's February 2023 exam, the [court's order](#) states.

Idaho previously had one of the highest required passing scores in the country. This small adjustment puts Idaho's score on par with most of its neighboring states, removing incentive for certain Bar applicants to pursue work outside of Idaho.

"We have large swaths of this state that are vastly underserved by the legal community," said Idaho Supreme Court Justice Robyn Brody, vice chief of the Court. "We want an exam system that makes sense, that's rational, that tests minimum competency and sets the bar accordingly."

The change follows the recommendations of an emergency Idaho State Bar resolution earlier this year through which a majority of Bar membership supported the new approach.

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