

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS25274

This legislation states that Tobacco use is a known health hazard and this proposal would raise the age for purchasing tobacco products and electronic cigarettes from 18 to 21. By raising the age at which tobacco products can be purchased, it may be possible to alleviate some of the negative health effects including the burden the Health Care System has with treating people afflicted with preventable diseases such as lung cancer, emphysema, and other smoking-related illnesses of tobacco usage. Smoking is one of the most difficult habits to break, and perhaps increasing the age at which cigarettes can be purchased will result in fewer young people starting to smoke and having trouble stopping later. Youth smokers identify friends and classmates as a common source of cigarettes. With more 18-19 year old in high school, youth have daily contact with students who can legally buy tobacco for them. Setting the minimum legal sale age at 21 instead of 18 would help keep tobacco out of schools because legal purchasers would be less likely to be in the same social networks as high school students and therefore less able to sell or give cigarettes to them.

FISCAL NOTE

Two-thirds (66.6%) of 10th grade and nearly half (47.0%) of 8th grade students say it's easy to get cigarettes. Idaho healthcare costs directly associated with smoking are \$508 million, including \$100.5 million in Medicaid costs. The estimated resident state and federal tax burden expenditures from smoking is \$627 per household. The Millennium Fund states that the cost associated with prevention/cessation/treatment/awareness in 2017 was roughly \$6.4 million dollars. The Idaho State Tax Commissions estimated decrease in tax collections for 2017-2020 is roughly \$1.7 million, \$1.6 million, \$1.5 million, and \$1.4 million respectively. These calculations assume there will be a 2.12% decrease in tobacco sales due to raising the legal sale age for tobacco products.

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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).