

REVISED

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS32044C1 / H0203

This bill updates and modernizes Chapter 1 (Idaho Competition Act), Title 48 (Monopolies and Trade Practices), with a new section, 48-119, to address the growing threat to consumers and competitive markets from coordinated price fixing through the use of pricing algorithms and artificial intelligence.

FISCAL NOTE

This legislation does not require the expenditure of funds at the state or local level of government, and does not create, repeal, or amend any state taxes or fees. Consequently, it would have no fiscal impact on the General Fund or any other state fund. Enforcement is at the Attorney General's prosecutorial discretion. 52% of renters in the Boise and Coeur d'Alene markets are house burdened, meaning they spend more than 30% of their income on rent. This is up from 44% in 2021. Rental rates have increased three times faster than inflation in these markets, despite some of the biggest years for new multifamily rental construction. It is estimated that rental price fixing has inflated rents by roughly \$105/unit across the roughly 50,000 apartments in the Boise and Coeur d'Alene markets, resulting in over \$63 million of excess fees paid by Idaho renters in 2024 alone.

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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).