

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS32403 / H0281

There has been notable escalation of direct assault on peace officers in Idaho. The title of this legislation will memorialize two Idaho officers that were lost in the line of duty of protecting us all. Criminals need to know that the most extreme penalties will be applied if they assault peace officers in Idaho. We need to step up and do what we can to protect our peace officers against the criminality that is escalating in the state. The current law for committing battery with intent to commit a serious felony, the punishment shall be imprisonment in the state prison not to exceed twenty-five (25) years. Idaho needs to send a clear message to criminals that assault on our peace officers will bring the most severe punishment. This legislation will now make a crime against a peace officer, where punishment shall be a fixed term of imprisonment of fifteen (15) years with a possible maximum term of life. Currently, if the death penalty is not sought, the court shall impose a life sentence with a minimum of confinement of not less than ten (10) years. In the case of murder of a peace officer, this legislation will put the minimum of not less than thirty-five (35) years.

FISCAL NOTE

There is no initial fiscal impact to the state General Fund or local government but may impose some additional cost of imprisoning violent criminals that are convicted under this new legislation.

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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).