

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS18195

This amendment will provide additional funding to the Crime Victims' Compensation Program that provides financial assistance to those victims that have no other source of aid. It increases the fines imposed on convicted criminals - misdemeanors from \$25.00 to \$37.00; felonies from \$50.00 to \$75.00; and sex crime related convictions from \$200 to \$300.00. These fines, set in 1993, serve as the primary funding source for payments made on behalf of victims. Funding generated through criminal fines has not kept pace with medical inflation and program growth, reducing the Crime Victims Compensation Fund to levels that are insufficient to meet current and future needs. This fine increase would generate approximately \$966,869 additional monies annually to help keep up with the increasing demand for services and medical inflation.

FISCAL NOTE

The Crime Victims' Compensation Program is funded solely by fines assessed on criminal convictions in Idaho, a matching federal grant, restitution and subrogation collections, and donations. Since Fiscal Year 2004, the program has seen a 151% increase in victims seeking assistance and a 206% increase in payments made on behalf of victims. In Fiscal Year 2008, \$3.18 million was paid out on behalf of victims, while fines collected were only \$1.9 million. There would be no impact on the general fund.

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