

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS19966C1

This proposal amends Idaho Code section 18-915, to add peace officer standards and training employee involved in peace officer decertification activities, and emergency services dispatchers to the "certain personnel" described in I.C. 18-915, to allow for the expanded punishment provisions should one of these key enforcement personnel be assaulted or battered as a consequence of their employment. It also replaces outdated detailed language regarding certain emergency medical services providers with a cite to Idaho Code where those designations exist.

Peace officer decertification investigations and hearings are an essential component of ensuring the integrity of Idaho's law enforcement community. They are highly stressful activities with the potential to end an officer's career, including those at the highest levels. They are frequently emotional, with a high level of tension and potential aggression which could lead to threatening behavior.

Dispatchers perform a myriad of duties that associate them with law enforcement officers. In some areas of Idaho, female dispatchers perform matron duties, including searching female inmates, when no female deputy or officer is available. Dispatchers occasionally perform routine field work such as scribing for SWAT call outs, search warrants and other non-enforcement activities.

In the recent past, emergency services dispatchers have been specifically targeted by gunmen. On May 20, 2007 a gunman opened fire on the Moscow Police Department specifically targeting dispatchers through a window as they worked the radio. The dispatch center took fire and the dispatcher working was nearly killed. When Idaho State Police Trooper Linda Huff was shot and killed, a dispatcher was also outside the office and a possible target. In the 1980's the Owyhee County Sheriff's office dispatch center was breached and fired upon.

FISCAL NOTE

Adding the categories of peace officer standards and training employee involved in peace officer decertification activities, and emergency services dispatcher to the "certain personnel" described in I.C. 18-915, and updating language referring to emergency services providers should create no appreciable negative fiscal impact to any funding source.

Contact:

Name: Ann Cronin
Office: Idaho State Police
Phone: (208) 884-7002