

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS21585

The state of Idaho continues to see active narcotics trafficking throughout the state which fuels other crimes from theft, property crimes, and violent crimes against persons. The Idaho State Police has long been in the forefront of narcotics enforcement throughout the state, and past budget cuts have severely hampered our narcotics enforcement efforts. To alleviate this problem, a dedicated funding source is needed to ensure that the Idaho State Police can actively enforce the state's drug statutes.

In recent years the Idaho State Police has seen significant cuts to its general funding due to the economic downturn. These cuts have hampered the Idaho State Police's efforts in continuing its aggressive efforts in enforcing the state's drug statutes. A dedicated funding source is needed to ensure that the Idaho State Police Detectives have a reliable source of funding to conduct controlled buys of narcotics, surveillance tools, and other investigative equipment to ensure continued success in criminal prosecution of the drug trafficking organizations.

In imposing an additional twenty dollar (\$20.00) fine to all violators of the states drug statutes (Title 37, all misdemeanor and felony charges), we can begin to build a dedicated fund to ensure continued enforcement and apprehension of these drug trafficking organizations. The 2011 Crime in Idaho Reports shows approximately 14,671 drug/narcotic violations and drug equipment violations within the state of Idaho. By charging an additional twenty dollar (\$20.00) fine on the population base charged with these violations, we can add a dedicated funding source of approximately \$293,000 to help offset some of the costs in operating and capital outlay expenses. Additional dedicated funding sources will need to be sought in the future, but this would give the Idaho State Police a starting point for those funds.

FISCAL NOTE

There would be no fiscal impact to the state of Idaho with this proposed legislation. All of the clerks within Idaho's judicial districts already disperse assets received from citations and fines, which should not add any additional burden on the system.

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