

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS22080

This legislation is to protect Idaho law enforcement officers from being directed, through federal orders, laws, rules, or regulations enacted or promulgated on or after January 1, 2013, to violate their oath of office and Idaho citizens' rights under the Idaho Constitution, Article 1, Section 11. This Constitutional provision disallows confiscation of firearms except those actually used in commission of a felony, and disallows other restrictions on a lawful citizen's right to own firearms and ammunition.

This law would be violated if an Idaho law enforcement officer knowingly and willingly participated in an action with the purpose of confiscating firearms defined as legal under this legislation. This would clearly not affect an Idaho law enforcement officer who assists federal agents on drug/gang or similarly related enforcement activities.

The legislation also protects Idaho law enforcement officers from their supervisors ordering them to violate this statute. Supervisors doing so would be in violation of this law and officers would not have to follow such an order.

Idaho law enforcement officers are partners with Idaho citizens in protecting the rights and outlined in both the U.S. and Idaho Constitutions. This bill demonstrates the commitment of Idaho's law enforcement officers to Idaho citizens and the legislature's commitment to protect Idaho law enforcement officers from being forced to violate their oath of office.

FISCAL NOTE

None

Contact:

Representative Mark Patterson
(208) 332-1176