

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS21925C1

This bill creates an Internet Crimes Against Children Unit within the Office of the Attorney General. The Idaho Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (IICACTF) is currently housed within the Attorney General’s Office and has successfully operated out of that office for five years. The creation of an Internet Crimes Against Children Unit will allow for additional staff needed to aid in the investigation and prosecution of offenders who use the Internet, online systems, computer technology, cellular phones, smart phones, or mobile technology devices to sexually exploit children. Such a unit is necessary to provide the personnel and resources to pursue the numerous leads found by IICACTF.

This unit, through partnerships with local law enforcement entities throughout the state, will enforce Idaho’s laws prohibiting sexual exploitation of Idaho’s children. Importantly, creation of this unit will ultimately lead to the rescue of children being sexually exploited and a reduction in the number of child victims.

FISCAL NOTE

This bill does not appropriate any funds, but it provides for an Internet Crimes Against Children Unit in the Attorney General's Office. If the legislature separately appropriates funds for this unit, it is anticipated that it would cost the state \$2,014,900 in fiscal year 2014. It includes \$1,607,100 on an ongoing basis and \$407,800 for one-time start-up costs for office furniture, computer workstations, computers, printers, office equipment and initial training for a total of 15 individuals. Personnel costs will be required in the office of the Attorney Generals for 3.50 full time people; a deputy attorney general, a half-time legal secretary and two full-time forensic examiners. Sufficient funding will also be required to cover the personnel and operating costs for approximately 11 criminal investigators hired directly by local law enforcement agencies. It is anticipated that the first year of funding will be revenue neutral to the General Fund due to the availability of one-time money in the Consumer Protection Fund within the Attorney General's Office. The use of these funds will not negatively impact the Consumer Protection Program and are funds that were not previously included in FY 2013 or FY 2014 General Fund revenues.

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