

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS25958

This legislation states that Tobacco use is a known health hazard, and this proposal would raise the legal sale age for tobacco products and electronic cigarettes from 18 to 21. By raising the age at which tobacco products can be purchased, it may be possible to alleviate negative health effects and burden to the Health Care System associated with treating people afflicted with preventable diseases such as lung cancer, emphysema, and other tobacco-related illnesses. Tobacco use is one of the most difficult addictions to break, and increasing the age at which cigarettes can be purchased will result in fewer young people initiating tobacco use and struggling to quit later in life. Youth smokers identify friends and classmates as a common source of tobacco products and e-cigarettes. With the presence of 18-19-year olds in high schools, younger teens have daily contact with students who can legally buy tobacco and provide to underage peers. Raising the minimum legal sale age to 21 instead of 18 would help keep tobacco out of schools because legal purchasers would be less likely to interface with high school students, and therefore have less ability to sell or provide cigarettes to them.

FISCAL NOTE

Two-thirds (66.6%) of 10th grade and nearly half (47.0%) of 8th grade students report that it is easy to get cigarettes. Idaho healthcare costs directly associated with smoking are \$508 million annually, including \$100.5 million in Medicaid costs. The estimated resident state and federal tax burden expenditures from smoking is \$640 per household. The Millennium Fund states that the cost associated with prevention/cessation/treatment/awareness in 2017 was roughly \$6.4 million dollars. The Idaho State Tax Commission estimated decrease in tax collections for 2018-2021 is roughly \$1.7 million, \$1.6 million, \$1.5 million, and \$1.4 million respectively. These calculations assume there will be a 2.12% decrease in tobacco sales due to raising the legal sale age for tobacco products.

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DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).