

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS26832

This legislation would amend § 33-1707, Idaho Code, to increase the amount districts receive in reimbursement in order to administer their driver training programs, from up to \$125 to up to \$150 per student completing the program. Additional language has been added to provide need-based scholarships for students and driver education programs. The reimbursement helps districts with the costs to operate the program and defrays expenses for students to continue this valuable education and training. As costs have risen to run the program, districts and students have been forced to pay more in an effort to sustain the program in the school system. A portion of every Idaho resident's driver license fee goes into the driver education account to pay for driver education reimbursement to districts. Because the reimbursement limit has not changed since 1996, the balance of the driver education account has continued to grow as Idaho's population expands and more individuals are paying driver license fees. Currently, there are 115 school districts receiving reimbursement from the State Department of Education. There is sufficient funding available in the driver education account to raise the reimbursement rate and meet the needs of the program at the school district level, as well as reduce the cost to students and parents.

FISCAL NOTE

A projected budget analysis indicates the driver education fund can raise and maintain the program with an increase up to \$150 per student from the current amount of \$125 per student completing the program. There is currently a large surplus in the account – approximately \$4.3 million. Need-based scholarships would be available at 10% of the annual revenue, or approximately \$400,000. This legislation is projected to gradually reduce the year-end balance of the account and provide funding to students with financial need and rural school districts with reduced funding capabilities. A nominal balance in the account is adequate to assure solvency.

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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).