



Idaho Sheriffs' Association

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February 14th, 2023

Members of the Senate Commerce & Human Resources Committee,

The Idaho Sheriffs Association supports **Senate Bill 1054**.

Senate bill 1054 ensures that Idaho's first responders can be considered for employment in Idaho after they retire. Legislation was passed from the Public Employee Retirement System of Idaho (PERSI) in 2022, that allowed for Idaho's first responders to be considered for employment after they have retired. SB 1054 amends Idaho Code, 59-1356, to move the sunset clause from the year 2026 to the year 2027. Along with the amended sunset clause, this amendment moves separation of employment from 90 days to 30 days.

This legislation addresses the hiring crisis that is occurring in law enforcement departments nationwide. This adjustment in code will help Idaho law enforcement agencies fill needed jobs. This will also save on expenses such as training, temporary hires and rehiring of lesser ranked positions. This legislation is not intended to require the rehiring of police officers but rather give the option to help our offices that have struggled hiring qualified people.

In regard to re-employment benefits to employees, SB1054 will allow retired persons to acquire another PERSI job full-time job and maintain the same benefits prior to retirement. This incentive allows for great comfort for the employee and for our sheriff offices.

PERSI will continue to collect their percentage for public safety and the employee will not accrue any additional service points. Thus, allowing their retirement to be locked in. This legislation helps our law enforcement agencies and those first responders that have helped make our state safe for so long.

Thank you,

Jeff Lavey
Executive Director
Idaho Sheriffs Association