

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS28476 / H0190

This legislation places a welfare fraud unit with the Idaho State Police. Currently welfare fraud investigations are under the authority of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. In 2020, IDHW disbanded the welfare fraud unit. Investigators with the welfare fraud unit were told their duties could be covered by another unit within IDHW. Health and Welfare reports these duties are still being covered. Before the breakup of the welfare fraud unit, the fraud unit consisted of 8 highly trained investigators, most having much law enforcement experience.

FISCAL NOTE

States receive a federal match for the personnel costs for administering the welfare programs. There are also some operating expenses (such as supplies, equipment, etc.) that also are eligible for federal match. The total allocated to IDHW for welfare fraud investigations, including the federal match, is \$580,548 annually. This bill requires that the \$580,548 be allocated to ISP for welfare fraud investigations. This would simply be a transfer of funds from IDHW to the Idaho State Police. There would not be an increased cost to state general funds.

Contact:

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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).