

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS25833

The purpose of this legislation is to repeal the Unfair Sale Act, Chapter 4, Title 48, Idaho Code. This depression-era statute became law in 1939 and, with limited exceptions, required merchandise to be marked-up over cost by a minimum, statutorily-set amount. Today, it is common for merchants to offer their wares at or below cost as an inducement to patronize the merchandiser and purchase other goods. Other merchants, such as grocery stores, commonly set prices at very low margins, making their profits through high volume. Although the law is generally not enforced, its violation is a misdemeanor carrying fines and jail time. As the enforcement of such a price-fixing scheme would harm consumers and reduce competition, this Act should be repealed.

FISCAL NOTE

As this bill does not affect revenues, there will be no fiscal impact on state or local governments.

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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).