

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS29539 / H0667

This bill is to put a system in place to protect against fraudulent unemployment claims.

Every year, the Department of Labor finds unemployment claims that are fraudulent or otherwise improper. The best way to prevent those claims, and to relieve burden on staff, is to perform cross-checks on applicants when they first submit their applications. Checking to make sure that applicants aren't in jail, haven't recently been hired, haven't moved, and aren't receiving payments from another state is one of the most effective ways to prevent fraud in our system. It also requires data sharing between agencies so that state agencies with information about work status share that information with the Department of Labor.

Idaho is already a leader in fraud prevention, and this bill makes sure that our state is among the top in the nation. It codifies some of the Department of Labor's existing practices and builds upon the existing infrastructure.

FISCAL NOTE

The bill does not have an impact on the General Fund to administer because it builds on existing infrastructure and practices. However, savings to the Unemployment Insurance Trust can be expected with a decreased number of fraudulent applications caught at the outset.

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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).