STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS30381 / H0168

The purpose of this legislation is to enhance program integrity for the state's unemployment insurance program. Covid-19 brought mass employment. Unfortunately, it also brought massive amounts of waste, fraud and abuse to our nations' employment programs. Nationally it is estimates that unemployment programs may have lost between \$87 billion to \$400 billion to fraudulent or wasteful claims. This legislation will require the Department of Labor to perform routine cross checks of existing databases to which the state already has access, like new hire records, death records, prison roles, and others.

FISCAL NOTE

It is not anticipated that this legislation will impose any new costs to the Department. However, if additional costs are required it is expected they be minimal. Currently, the Idaho Department of Labor is already performing many of these functions. By codifying these best practices Idaho taxpayers and businesses will be provided greater protections.

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