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BILL ANALYSIS / SUMMARY

S1293

2026 Regular Session

02/20/2026

IDAHO DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION POSITION: **SUPPORT**

SHORT TITLE: Crime Victims Compensation

SPONSOR(S): Senator Melissa Wintrow, D–Boise

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: Senate Health and Welfare

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: This legislation clarifies that the verification of lawful presence does not apply to applications for crime victims compensation, including the collection of evidence during sexual assault forensic examinations. The crime victims compensation program encourages victims to come forward and cooperate with law enforcement, thereby supporting public safety. By restoring this well-established process, the legislation ensures that crime victims receive the essential services and compensation needed for healing and continued cooperation with law enforcement.

FISCAL NOTE: There is no fiscal impact on the General Fund of this legislation since it is restoring a previous standard practice which has always occurred.

BILL SUMMARY: Senate Bill 1293 amends Idaho Code § 67-7903 adding application, and reception of, crime victim compensation under the lawful presence verification exception. The amendment states that agencies may not require verification of lawful presence when an individual applies for or receives crime victim compensation. This removes lawful presence as a condition for these benefits which include compensation to assist with treatment of injuries sustained or resulting from crime, and the expenses associated with sexual assault forensic examinations.

REASONING FOR POSITION: IDA supports S1293. Access to crime victim compensation should be available to those effected in the state regardless of legal status. This bill corrects issues arising from changes made in 2025 which prevented people without lawful presence from receiving certain public benefits, which strangely was construed to prohibit crime victim restitution. S1293 will allow all people in Idaho who are victims of crime to have access to compensation regardless of legal status, thus protecting victims of human and sexual trafficking, and promoting the reporting of such criminal activity.

IMPACTS TO AGRICULTURE: Farm laborers are particularly susceptible to crimes targeting humans, particularly as relates to trafficking of persons. S1293 provides access to restitution for victims of

crimes against persons. This will allow farm workers to get the assistance they need to recover from crime, and encourage cooperation with law enforcement without fear of additional consequences related to legal status.

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