

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS31336 / S1360

Public school teachers do not receive dedicated monies for classroom supplies and typically purchase these out of their own pocket. In 2007, Superintendent Luna provided teachers \$350 each year for classroom supplies which colloquially became known as “Luna Bucks”. This program ended in 2010 with the recession and teachers have not received classroom supply money since. This legislation provides public and charter teachers with prepaid \$500 debit cards designated for the procurement of qualified classroom supplies. Eligible teachers are required to maintain receipts and transaction records for a duration of two years from the date of purchase. The Idaho Department of Education reserves the right to audit any transaction conducted by teachers within a two-year timeframe upon request. The eligible teacher or respective school is obliged to furnish records promptly upon request by the Idaho Department of Education. In the event of an unauthorized purchase, the teacher assumes responsibility for reimbursing the Idaho Department of Education. Any remaining funds at the end of the fiscal year may be carried over and utilized in subsequent years, for a maximum period of three years from the date of card issuance.

FISCAL NOTE

This legislation creates the accounts and does not specify the total amount to be allocated. The legislation is subject to appropriation by the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee (JFAC), which is responsible for determining the levels of funding. Based on a public teacher population of 18,997 plus a \$6.95 processing fee/card, an approximate total of \$9,573,538 (\$9,498,500 + \$132,029) would be appropriated for the year.

Contact:

Senator Carrie Semmelroth
(208) 332-1352

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).