



BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

April 3, 2024

The Honorable Scott Bedke
President of the Senate
Idaho State Senate
Hand Delivery

Dear Mr. President,

I hereby advise you that I have signed on April 3, 2024, and transmitted to the Office of the Secretary of State, with my approval, the following Senate bill to wit:

S 1435

within the time prescribed by law, the same having arrived in the Office of the Governor at the hour of 1:27 p.m. on March 29, 2024.

Idaho is a state that proudly “backs the blue.” Our commitment to public safety is a huge part of what makes Idaho an attractive place to live and raise a family, which is why funding critical ongoing needs at the Idaho State Police, such as body armor and bullets, with one-time funding causes me significant concern.

In 2019, the Legislature decided to gradually remove ISP from the Highway Distribution Account funded by fuel taxes. Fiscal Year 2025 is the final year ISP will be partially funded by fuel taxes. This dedicated funding source was historically used to support the ISP Patrol Division by providing salaries for troopers as well as repair and replacement needs for items such as vehicles, bulletproof vests, sidearms, and ammunition. Consequently, ISP’s reliance on the General Fund for repair and replacement items has grown over the last four years and will continue to grow in the future.

Two weeks ago, we were all reminded of ISP’s indispensable statewide law enforcement mission. ISP coordinated efforts with federal, state, and local law enforcement partners to peacefully end a deadly 36-hour manhunt that stretched the entire state.

An appropriation bill cannot be considered a maintenance of operations budget if it does not account for equipping troopers with essential items for their work. ISP’s repair and

replacement items that directly support troopers and investigators are not one-time expenses. They have predictable replacement schedules, and these essential items should be built into the base of ISP's budget. This appropriation runs contrary to previous commitments as ISP was eased off the Highway Distribution Account, and it is not structurally sound budgeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brad Little", with a stylized, cursive script.

Brad Little
Governor of Idaho