

DOT, DLE merger boosts efficiency, State Patrol

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BOISE — The merger of several functions of the Department of Law Enforcement with the Department of Transportation will boost the law enforcement activities in Idaho, including restoration of 12 positions terminated last year for the State Patrol, said Rep. John O. Sessions, R-Driggs, chairman of the House Transportation Committee.

Sessions, who has been the moving legislative force in the merger which he contends streamlines operations of both departments, pointed out the bill has now passed the Legislature and will be signed by Gov. John V. Evans, who strongly approves of the action.

The merger bill passed the House 60-8 and the Senate 34-0.

Sessions said expenditures approved last week by the Joint Finance-Appropriation Committee for the Department of Law Enforcement included \$6,478,000 for State Police, \$3,469,100 for crime control, \$1,473,700 for central administration, \$1,186,700 for brand inspection and \$226,800 for Horse Racing Commission.

All of the personnel received a 5 percent change of employment compensation and 6 percent for operating expenses.

"The funding for the State Police allows the necessary personnel costs to restore the 12 positions which were eliminated during this current fiscal year," said Sessions. "It also includes sufficient capital outlay to replace 26 patrol vehicles which have dangerous high mileage of 90,000 miles or more."

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Sessions said the ports of entry program has been eliminated to reflect the transfer of that function to the Idaho Transportation Department which includes 74 fulltime employees and a cost of \$1.9 million.

On central administration, 12 data processing positions were transferred to DOE. Operating expenses will include a one-time expenditure of \$78,900 for a scheduled legislative audit.

In the field of crime control, \$600,000 was freed by eliminat-

ing the motor vehicle funds from DLE and transferring it to DOE. An appropriation of \$75,100 was approved for hiring of investigators. The general account increase totals 10.3 percent.

The brand inspection program includes \$31,000 for replacement of vehicles and \$20,000 for data processing equipment.

The Horse Racing Commissions gets an additional 5 percent operating expenses, plus \$13,500 for anticipated increase in 20 racing days.



Rep. John O. Sessions, R-Driggs