

STATE OF IDAHO OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE BEN YSURSA

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PRESS RELEASE

BOISE, Idaho – August 12, 2014 – The Idaho Secretary of State and Access Idaho have introduced a new way for business owners in <u>Idaho</u> to help prevent business identity theft using Access Idaho's <u>Business</u> <u>Identity Monitoring</u> application. Corporate identity theft is a growing problem. Access Idaho worked with the Idaho Secretary of State to make Idaho one of the first states to offer this innovative application that allows business owners to protect their business' identity from someone fraudulently adding their name to a state government registry of businesses and then applying for a loan, credit or a large purchase in the name of the business.

"There are nearly 139,000 entities registered in Idaho," stated Secretary of State Ben Ysursa. "While business owners and corporations attempt to protect their entities and investments, it can be difficult to always stay alert and informed to outside risks. This tool is designed to eliminate some of those risks."

Business owners can create an account through Access Idaho to track all the businesses they wish to monitor. Access Idaho monitors business name, address, status, type, officers, and annual report. Each time a change is made on a business, the owner on record receives an email or text notification within 24 hours of the change. Business owners can also receive warning notifications when the annual report is not filed, before the business is dissolved.

A \$30.00 annual fee is assessed per registered company. The service accepts Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover and e-check payments through Access Idaho's secure payment processor.

Idaho.gov's online Business Identity monitoring service (BIM) operates through Access Idaho in conjunction with the Idaho Secretary of State's office.

To learn more about BIM, visit https://www.accessidaho.org/sos/bim/.