

Seth Grigg

S 1074

2-27-19

Chairman Lakey, members of the committee, my name is Seth Grigg and I am the Executive Director of the Idaho Association of Counties. With me here today are Ada County Sheriff Steve Bartlett and legal counsel for the sheriff Joseph Mallett.

Senate Bill 1074 is in response to a lawsuit between the Ada County Sheriff's Office and St. Al's Hospital regarding the responsibility of the county sheriff to provide medical care for individuals no longer in the sheriff's custody.

The lawsuit stems from an inmate in the Ada County Jail who attempted to commit suicide. The jail staff saved the inmates life; however, the injuries sustained caused him to remain in a comatose state. Because of this, after some time in the hospital, the charges were dismissed. The county agreed to cover medical expenses prior to dismissal but not after.

The hospital sued and the Supreme Court held that the county had to pay all medical expenses, even after the inmate was no longer in the sheriff's custody. This resulted in the county paying an additional \$250,000 in medical expenses.

Senate Bill 1074 proposes amending Section 20-612, Idaho Code, to clarify that once an individual has been released from the sheriff's custody, the sheriff is no longer responsible for the inmate's medical expenses.

An individual released from the sheriff's custody would still be eligible for other public medical benefits including the county indigent program, the state CAT program, and Medicaid.

I urge you to support Senate Bill 1074 and send it to the floor with a do pass recommendation.

I'll stand for any questions.