

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS24054

The Idaho State Council on Developmental Disabilities proposes a change to our state law (Idaho Code Section 67-6704) pertaining to Council membership. Specifically: individuals applying to fill the positions of "Individual with a Developmental Disability" and "Parent of a Child with a Developmental Disability" would not be restricted based on working for a state agency or local organization that receives funds for or provides services to individuals with developmental disabilities as currently defined in Idaho statute. Our federal law only restricts employees of a State agency that receives funds or provides services under the DD Act subtitle. The Council, University Center for Excellence in Disability, or the state Protection and Advocacy organizations all receive funding through the DD Act. This proposed change resolves a current member recruitment issue where the Council finds it a barrier to find prospective applicants, especially parents, who do not work in the disability field in some way. The Council values and encourages parents to apply their knowledge, skills, and expertise gained through their life experiences to become more involved in service to children and adults with developmental disabilities in their communities. Denying parents or individuals with developmental disabilities the ability to serve on the Council because of their work situation seems counterintuitive to this idea.

FISCAL NOTE

There is no fiscal impact on the General Fund.

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