

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS24902

The Intent of this legislation is to amend the termination or commitment and discharge of involuntary patients committed to inpatient facilities from a 30-day notice to a 7-day notice to the committing court and prosecuting attorney, under title 66, chapter 3, section 66-337(b), Idaho Code. This change will allow for a timelier release from an inpatient facility that is clinically appropriate for the patient and more cost effective. The current 30-day requirement delays the legal process as well as extends the patient's stay even after receiving the maximum therapeutic benefit of inpatient treatment. The patient no longer meets criteria for continued stay in the inpatient facility accumulating unnecessary costs for inpatient treatment and ties up state hospital beds needed for other patients for an additional 30 days.

FISCAL NOTE

The daily cost for a patient in a state hospital bed is approximately \$500 per day and the daily cost at a local hospital is approximately \$800-\$1200 per day depending upon the facility. A 30-day stay at the state hospital is approximately \$15,000 and a 30-day stay at a local hospital is approximately \$24,000-\$36,000. For a patient to unnecessarily stay an extra 30 days in the state hospital plus the cost for another patient waiting for an available state hospital bed to remain in a local hospital costs the Department approximately \$39,000-\$51,000. Without this change the Department will continue to pay unnecessary costs for inpatient treatment that is not medically necessary or clinically appropriate.

Under Idaho Code 66-327(c), the Department of Health and Welfare is responsible for costs of involuntary patients committed to the custody of the state of Idaho, beginning on the day after the person is committed to the department until the involuntary patient is discharged.

Contact:

Ross Edmunds
Department of Health and Welfare
(208) 334-5726

DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).