

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS25391

With the deinstitutionalization of clients and the falling census at the Southwest Idaho Treatment Center (SWITC) the mission of the institution has changed from an Intermediate Care Facility to a stabilization facility that should have levels of secure and less secure placement according to client needs. This legislation will allow for a wing of the facility to have secured features protecting more vulnerable clients and the community. Idaho courts have expressed the need for a short term placement option for individuals with developmental disabilities who pose a threat to the community during the pendency of their criminal cases.

FISCAL NOTE

This legislation enables the Department to establish, operate, and maintain a secure treatment facility for persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities who pose a threat to the safety of others. This legislation does not result in a fiscal impact this year. If the legislation is approved, the next step involves the creation of licensing standards and adding some basic secure features such as locks, cameras, and alarms with no additional appropriation this year. Additionally, the Department will continue to explore the costs and benefits of constructing a new facility or remodeling an existing building for a secure facility. Costs of constructing a new facility have been estimated at \$1,700,000 while remodeling one of the existing buildings at SWITC would cost considerably less. Various funding options may be available and the Department will work with the Governor's Office and the legislature to determine the best way to cover necessary security enhancements in future years.

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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).