

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS25639

The Department of Health and Welfare (department) operates two mental health hospitals, State Hospital North and State Hospital South. Employing physicians as medical directors at the hospitals is necessary, yet the department struggles to recruit and retain them. One barrier to successful recruitment is salary, as market rates are significantly higher than rates allowed by the state's classified pay schedule. The Physician, Medical Director, Institution job classification has already received multiple pay line exceptions pursuant to Idaho Code 67-5309D, however the existing pay schedule is insufficient to recruit and retain qualified candidates. The department also operates a residential care facility for people with disabilities called the Southwest Idaho Treatment Center (SWITC). Currently SWITC does not have a need for a medical director. The purpose of this legislation is to designate individuals employed as Physician, Medical Director, Institution at the department as non-classified and therefore not subject to Idaho Code 67-5301 et seq.

FISCAL NOTE

The total annual General Fund impact is currently estimated at \$65,400 and will be used to increase the compensation of the Medical Director at State Hospital South and State Hospital North. It should be noted the department believes there will be a reduction in the need for General Fund in the Community Hospitalization appropriation should it successfully retain and/or recruit Medical Directors for each State Hospital location.

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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).