

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS30213 / H0084

This legislation creates the “Rural Nursing Loan Repayment Program” and the “Rural Nursing Loan Repayment Fund” under Title 39, Chapter 59. The purpose of the program is to entice nurses to commit to practicing in rural Idaho. Money allocated to the fund would pay educational debts for nurses committed to practicing in designated rural health shortage areas and critical access hospitals in Idaho. Payments would be at a maximum of \$25,000, not to exceed verified nursing educational debt. The program would be administered by the Department of Health and Welfare.

FISCAL NOTE

The fiscal impact of this legislation would be based on the annual appropriation. Under the program, each eligible nurse would receive up to \$5,000 or \$10,000 per year depending upon years of qualified employment in a eligible rural nursing position, and up to a maximum of \$25,000 over three years of employment. In any case, the amount would not exceed verified nursing educational debt. The bill contains a sunset in 2029, so the annual number of nurses would cap at 100 in year three and the annual amount would taper to the end of the program. The number of actual awards each year would be made dependent upon the annual appropriation. The fund would be administered by the Department of Health and Welfare. Few administrative costs are anticipated as the Department already administers similar loan repayment programs for physicians and other healthcare providers, however administrative costs are limited to 10% of allocated funds.

Contact:

Representative Dori Healey
(208) 332-1000

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).