

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS25086

This proposal amends the current Idaho Conrad J-1 Visa Waiver Program (J-1 Program), established by the Idaho Legislature in 2004, that allows qualifying Idaho healthcare organizations to apply for the placement of a foreign trained physician in a federally-designated shortage area as a recruitment option of last resort. The amendments maintain the rural, primary care, and option of last resort focus of the J-1 Program while allowing no more than 10 of the 30 total waiver slots to be used annually for recruiting specialist physicians in federally designated shortage areas.

This proposal also allows Idaho healthcare organizations not located in federally designated shortage areas to apply for primary care and specialist J-1 slots. These applications will only become available for waiver slots not utilized during the first six months of the federal fiscal year. The healthcare organization must demonstrate need for the physician and agree to serve patients who reside in federally-designated shortage areas. Of this pool of J-1 Visa's, no more than five of the 10 flex waiver slots can go to specialists.

FISCAL NOTE

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare will absorb the anticipated increased workload the first year and evaluate personnel and program impacts.

Contact:

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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).