

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS25032

The purpose of this legislation is to bolster the success of Idaho's Telehealth Access Act which can be found in Idaho Code § 54-5701 through § 54-5713. This legislation, if enacted, would allow for costs of telehealth services to be covered in the same manner and to the same extent as if the services were delivered in person.

Further, it is the purpose of this legislation to aid in implementation of Idaho's Telehealth Access Act by: improving timely access to consultations without long travel and loss of work time; decreasing health care fragmentation which improves patient experience; reducing cost for patients and payors through better management of chronic disease and better access; increasing patient access to providers that might be otherwise unavailable due to distance; and, improving health quality, equity, and affordability for all Idahoans.

FISCAL NOTE

There is no fiscal impact to the state general fund. There is no fiscal impact on local government funds.

There will likely be a fiscal impact to health carriers and other entities as outlined in the bill. That fiscal impact will vary depending upon policies and utilization. Conversely, the fiscal impact may be less, as covering the cost of telehealth services may result in catching illness in a preventative manner because access to health care is more easily available. The fiscal impact for citizens utilizing telehealth services may be positive, as costs of travel and time may go down as access to medical care can occur via telehealth systems. The fiscal impact for health care providers may be positive as they may be reimbursed for the cost of their service at the same level as an in-office visit.

Contact:

Senator Shawn Keough
(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).