

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS31973 / H0059

The Medical Ethics Defense Act protects the conscience rights of healthcare professionals and healthcare entities. It protects them from being forced to participate in non-emergency procedures that would violate their sincerely held religious, moral, or ethical beliefs. Healthcare professionals should not be forced to violate their oath to "do no harm." This bill protects healthcare professionals from discrimination when they exercise their rights of conscience. It also enhances patient care by protecting them from discrimination when they report violations of the law or exercise their constitutionally protected free speech rights. The Act is intended to supersede other provisions of Idaho law that are less protective of rights of conscience

## FISCAL NOTE

This legislation causes no increase or decrease in revenue, or additional expenditure of funds at the state or local level of government; therefore, this legislation has no fiscal impact.

### Contact:

Representative Bruce D. Skaug  
(208) 332-1000  
Senator Carl Bjerke  
(203) 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).