STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS21221

The purpose of this legislation is to amend Idaho Code 33-2307 and Idaho Code 33-2308, thereby terminating the end-stage renal disease program by June 30, 2013. These laws require the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to provide financial assistance to individuals diagnosed with end-stage renal disease who are unable to pay for the cost of services. These laws were passed in 1970 when other types of financial assistance were not available to individuals with end-stage renal disease. However, a recent study by the legislative Office of Performance Evaluations found that Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance provide for some or all of the costs associated with end-stage renal disease, making the original legislative intent of these laws no longer relevant. Additionally, the state does not provide financial assistance for any other single disease, bringing into question the fairness of the current end-stage renal disease program.

FISCAL NOTE

Terminating the end-stage renal disease program will save nearly $500,000 annually in General Funds for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (or State Board of Education) beginning in fiscal year 2014. Additional savings may be found during fiscal year 2013 as current participants are phased out of the program.

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