

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS21577

A recent FBI audit of the Board of Nursing's existing statutory authority to conduct criminal background checks of applicants for a nursing license revealed some deficiencies and resulted in recommendations to amend Section 54-1401, Idaho Code. This legislation seeks to adopt the auditor's recommendations thereby eliminating the inadequacies identified in the statute.

The legislation is also intended to improve and clarify the Board's grounds for denying or disciplining a nursing license found at Section 54-1413, Idaho Code. First, the legislation aims to correct an oversight in the current statutory language that allows room for an argument that the statute does not apply to applicants for licensure. Second, the legislation will authorize the Board to impose discipline on an applicant or licensee if the applicant or licensee has had any professional license (not just a nursing license) formally disciplined, not just revoked or suspended, in any jurisdiction. These changes are consistent with the Uniform Licensing Requirements of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing that have been endorsed by the Idaho Board of Nursing.

FISCAL NOTE

This bill has no fiscal impact.

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