

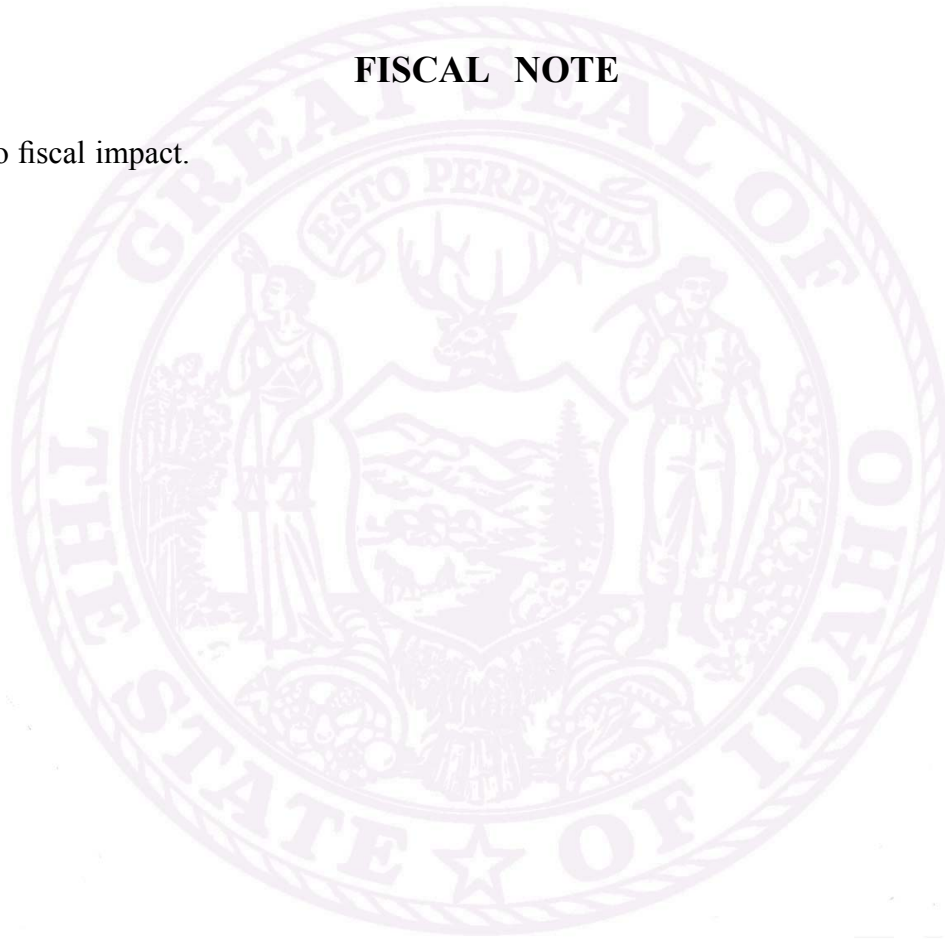
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS21880

This bill clarifies an ambiguity created in 2012 by amendments to the Natural Death Act. That legislation specified that health care cannot be withdrawn or denied (except in certain limited circumstances) if a patient has an advanced directive or living will directing medical care not to be withdrawn if he or she is approaching death and unable to communicate. It has been suggested that the language might apply to non-end-of-life circumstances, potentially requiring costly, inappropriate and unnecessary medical care. This legislation would clarify that as a patient nears death he or she is entitled to receive care that is necessary to sustain life and to provide comfort if he or she has so directed.

FISCAL NOTE

There is no fiscal impact.



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