

## **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

### **RS22997**

During the 2010 Legislative Session, HB 656 passed and was signed into law effective July 1, 2010. The purpose of HB 656 was to allow the Department of Health and Welfare, through an agreement with hospitals, to make additional assessments of \$50M on hospitals to help the State fund Trustee and Benefits in the Medicaid Program that were underfunded because of the downturn in the economy. The bill repealed and reissued Idaho Code, Section 56-1404, granting separate authority for the Department of Health and Welfare to collect increased assessments from hospitals through June 30, 2012. HB 656 contained a sunset clause that restored the statute to its original 2010 status on July 1, 2012. The original statute authorized the assessments for 2009, 2010 and 2011, and HB 656 deleted those dates to make the assessments go beyond 2011. Unfortunately, when the original language was restored, those limiting dates were restored, as well, when they should not have been. Assessments continued to be made during fiscal year 2013 and a subsequent Legislative audit led to the discovery of the drafting error in HB 656. The purpose of this proposed legislation is to amend the language in Chapter 14, Title 56, Idaho Code, to remove the limiting dates so the assessments will be perpetual. There are also some minor clarifying amendments to make the language consistent throughout the Chapter.

### **FISCAL NOTE**

There is no impact to the State General Fund.

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