

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 564

BY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CORPORATE WELFARE AND LOW WAGE DISCLO-  
2 SURE ACT; PROVIDING A SHORT TITLE; PROVIDING LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND  
3 PURPOSE; AMENDING CHAPTER 10, TITLE 56, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF  
4 A NEW SECTION 56-1003A, IDAHO CODE, TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
5 AND WELFARE TO PREPARE AND FILE A PUBLIC BENEFIT PROGRAM EMPLOYER RE-  
6 PORT, TO PROVIDE THE CONTENTS OF THE REPORT AND TO PROVIDE WHAT THE RE-  
7 PORT SHALL BE SUBJECT TO AND WHAT SHALL NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE REPORT.  
8

9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

10 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This act shall be known and may be cited as "The  
11 Corporate Welfare and Low Wage Disclosure Act."

12 SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND PURPOSE. (1) The Legislature finds  
13 that:

14 (a) Public benefit programs are essential to provide state residents  
15 with access to fresh, healthy food, quality health coverage, basic  
16 needs, cash assistance, child care, and income supports, among other  
17 benefits.

18 (b) The state needs to preserve and expand public benefit programs to  
19 ensure that no resident has to go hungry or forgo medical care because he  
20 or she cannot afford basic life necessities.

21 (c) When low wages and a lack of benefits leave workers unable to make  
22 ends meet, they turn to public assistance programs for health care,  
23 food, and other basic necessities.

24 (d) Employers that pay low wages and offer insufficient benefits shift  
25 the costs of doing business onto taxpayers.

26 (e) Specifically, more than sixty percent of enrollees in Medicaid and  
27 CHIP nationwide are members of working families, meaning that the tax-  
28 payers bear a significant portion of the hidden costs of low-wage work.

29 (f) Large, profitable employers should pay wages and benefits that do  
30 not impoverish workers or shift costs onto taxpayers. Such employers  
31 put responsible employers at a competitive disadvantage, creating an  
32 unfair playing field for business in the state.

33 (g) To promote a deeper understanding of the causes and sources of un-  
34 deremployment, poverty wages, and the economic impacts on our society,  
35 business, and the state budget, it is appropriate for policymakers to  
36 possess a broader set of empirical data with which to make informed de-  
37 cisions.

38 (2) Purpose. This law is enacted to obtain data that will enable the  
39 state to protect workers and strengthen the economy.

1 SECTION 3. That Chapter 10, Title 56, Idaho Code, be, and the same is  
2 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-  
3 ignated as Section 56-1003A, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

4 56-1003A. CORPORATE WELFARE AND LOW WAGE DISCLOSURE ACT -- RE-  
5 PORT. (1) The department of health and welfare shall annually, no later than  
6 February 1, prepare and file a public welfare program beneficiary employer  
7 report to identify the fifty (50) employers who employ fifty (50) or more em-  
8 ployees and have the highest number of employees who receive medical assis-  
9 tance, medical benefits or assistance through the state plan for medicaid,  
10 the state children's health insurance program (SCHIP), the supplemental nu-  
11 trition assistance program (SNAP), electronic benefits transfer (EBT), the  
12 women, infants, and children program (WIC) and the temporary assistance for  
13 families in Idaho (TAFI). The report shall be filed with the secretary of the  
14 state senate and the chief clerk of the house of representatives, the joint  
15 finance-appropriations committee and the senate and house health and wel-  
16 fare committees. The report shall also be made available on the department's  
17 website.

18 (2) The report shall include:

19 (a) The name and address of the employer;

20 (b) The size of the employer;

21 (c) The number of public benefit program beneficiaries who are employ-  
22 ees of that employer;

23 (d) The number of public benefit program beneficiaries who are spouses  
24 or dependents of an employee of that employer;

25 (e) Whether the employer offers health benefits to its employees;

26 (f) The cost to the state of providing public health program benefits  
27 for its employees and enrolled dependents, if available; and

28 (g) Whether the employer offered health benefits to its employees who  
29 are public health program beneficiaries and, if so, the number of such  
30 employees.

31 (3) The report shall not include the names of any individual public ben-  
32 efit access program beneficiaries and shall be subject to privacy standards  
33 pursuant to Public Law 104-191 and the health insurance portability and ac-  
34 countability act of 1996. The department may establish interagency agree-  
35 ments to collect information to fulfill the requirements of this section in-  
36 cluding, but not limited to, an interagency agreement to access and utilize  
37 information collected through the health insurance responsibility disclo-  
38 sure form.