

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS26092

The federal government has stringent requirements that make it difficult for Idahoans to buy affordable health insurance coverage. This legislation codifies the Governor's Executive Order to allow Idahoans to purchase non-ACA plans that are compliant with state requirements. The new statute would provide flexibility from individual and small employer insurance plans requirement for essential health care benefits, state community and age ratings, and actuarial value regulations. Idaho insurance companies would be able to offer less-expensive, tailored insurance plans. It would also allow Idaho to apply for a 1332 State Innovation Waiver, only if the federal government requires a waiver for Idaho to sell non-ACA plans.

This legislation would also allow the state to make improvements to the Medicaid program via a second, 1115 Medicaid Waiver. This waiver would allow the state to establish a direct care program, impose work requirements for able bodied adults without children, and impose lifetime limits with clear exemptions for pregnant women, caregivers, etc.

It should be noted that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is not approving waivers that do not have legislative authorization. Therefore, the waivers that are drafted will need to be brought back to the legislature during the 2019 session.

FISCAL NOTE

There is no State General Fund impact for the 1332 Waiver. If approved, it is anticipated the Department of Insurance and Idaho Department of Health and Welfare will draft the waivers for the 2019 Legislative Session to impact FY20.

The 1115 Medicaid Reform Waiver is expected to have a positive impact on the General Fund. The reforms impose work requirements and lifetime limits. The Direct Primary Care Program is to be established within the current Medicaid cost structure, not as an add-on. Although the evidence from other States is limited, direct primary care is viewed as an alternative to traditional Medicaid plans.

Contact:

Representative Bryan Zollinger
(208) 332-1000
Representative John Vander Woude
(208) 332-1000

DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).