

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS26735

The proposed legislation would give the operators of Assisted Living Facilities the option to use a private sector accrediting organization to perform inspections or surveys as they are referred to in the industry. The surveys ensure that the Assisted Living Facilities are safe and in compliance with state laws. Currently, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare is the only provider of these inspection services, and they are behind schedule. As of February 7, 2019, the Department had 56 surveys that were at least one to four months behind schedule and three facilities that were seven months behind schedule. The proposed legislation would help relieve this backlog by allowing Assisted Living Facilities to contract with a private sector inspection provider that has been pre-approved by the Department. The accreditation standards shall meet or exceed the state requirements, and all inspection reports shall be available to the public. Assisted Living Facilities can still choose to use the Department to conduct inspections if they so choose. The proposed legislation simply gives the Assisted Living Facilities an additional option.

FISCAL NOTE

There will be a one-time cost of \$10,000 for the Department vendor to make changes to the Department's Facility Licensing and Regulator System (FLARES). FLARES tracks facility surveys, and it will have to be revised to accommodate tracking of those facilities with accreditation, including dates of accreditation, evidence of the accreditation, expiration dates, and ensuring those not requiring a survey due to accreditation are removed. The cost to upgrade FLARES will be off set by the reduced number of surveys the Department will have to conduct. The average time it takes the Department to do one survey is approximately 75 hours, at a cost of approximately \$50.00 per hour for a total of \$3,750.00 per survey. For every facility that chooses to use an accrediting organization instead of the Department's survey system, the Department will be able to utilize those resources to address the backlog. For example, just three surveys conducted by a private accreditor will allow the Department to utilize \$11,250.00 for other surveys or reduce their cost by this amount. The OPE report identified the potential need for licensing fees to keep up with growing number of assisted living facilities. This is an alternative to licensure fees as all private sector surveys will be paid by the facilities.

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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).