

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS28264 / H0179

The pandemic created a demand for telehealth services since many Idaho residents were not able to receive medical services in person. Several rules and laws were temporarily waived to make it easier for Idahoans to get the care they need and for providers to offer services via telehealth. After nearly a year of those rules being suspended, it is clear that many of them were never needed in the first place. Telehealth has proven safe, reliable and useful for Idahoans. One of the most important waivers was about licensure. Prior to the pandemic, a citizen could only receive services from a provider with an Idaho license, even if that provider was licensed in another state. That was waived during the pandemic to give Idahoans more options for how they received care. This bill makes that waiver permanent while also adding important protections to make sure providers are qualified, follow Idaho guidelines and are subject to Idaho laws. This bill comes from the 2020 Occupational Licensing and Certification Laws Committee of the Idaho Legislature. The Committee discussed and debated this legislation over the last year, and voted to support the introduction of the bill for consideration by the full legislature.

FISCAL NOTE

There was no known cost for the licensure boards when these rules were temporarily waived, so there should be no cost to the general fund if the waivers are made permanent.

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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).