

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS32140 / S1058

This legislation amends Section 39-8202 of Idaho Code relating to the Safe Haven Act by defining terms and adding that the Department of Health and Welfare must maintain a list of licensed adoption agencies for placing abandoned children and transfer custody to a selected agency within 24 hours, unless exigent circumstances exist. If a child requires medical care and no adoptive family is found within 48 hours, the child remains in a hospital, and the court and prosecutor are notified for a shelter care hearing. If there is reason to believe the child is an Indian child, ICWA jurisdiction applies, and the department must send immediate notification to the child's tribe or the Bureau of Indian Affairs, issuing all required notices within ten days.

FISCAL NOTE

This legislation does not increase costs to the state general fund or impose any financial burden on state or local governments. The amendments primarily clarify existing procedures and streamline the placement of abandoned children without adding new financial obligations.

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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).