

REVISED

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS33161 / S1267

The Medicaid for Workers with Disabilities (MWD) program (Idaho Code §56-209n) is health insurance for people who work and have a disability. This program is intended to help people with disabilities work, earning more money and keeping health insurance, to support independent living. Many people with disabilities would like to continue to work beyond the age of 65 and maintain these benefits and supports. After age 65, many people who want to continue to work are kicked off the program and then must face higher costs shares that sometimes quadruple.

In order to keep people living independently in their homes, and avoid the high costs of institutionalization, this legislation directs the Department of Health and Welfare to identify and evaluate options, no later than December 1, 2026, within existing federal Medicaid authority that prioritizes the continuity for individuals enrolled in or transitioning from the Medicaid for Workers with Disabilities program.

### FISCAL NOTE

There is no additional request for General Fund dollars because current staff at the Department of Health and Welfare will be asked to conduct this research. Speaking with the Department, they indicated they have staff who are dedicated to this program and would be able to do the research needed.

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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).