

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS33259 / S1344

This legislation reaffirms the Legislature's constitutional role in authorizing state programs and expenditures by clarifying that the Department of Health and Welfare may operate only those programs and services that are expressly authorized in Idaho Code.

The bill amends existing statutes to require the Director of the Department of Health and Welfare to continuously monitor programs for statutory authorization and to discontinue any program or service lacking express authority. It establishes enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance, including revocation of spending authority and corresponding appropriation adjustments when unauthorized expenditures occur.

The bill also requires the Department of Health and Welfare to submit a comprehensive report identifying all programs it operates and the statutory authority supporting each program. Additionally, the bill clarifies that appropriation acts do not themselves create or imply independent program authority.

The purpose of this legislation is to strengthen legislative oversight, improve transparency, ensure statutory compliance, and maintain proper separation of powers between the legislative and executive branches.

FISCAL NOTE

This legislation is not anticipated to have a fiscal impact on the General Fund or any dedicated fund.

The reporting requirement and ongoing compliance review are expected to be absorbed within existing staff duties and resources of the Department of Health and Welfare. No new programs are created, and no additional staffing or appropriations are required. Any reduction in expenditures resulting from discontinuation of unauthorized programs would result in cost savings.

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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).