IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 140

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE IDAHO STATE BUILDING AUTHORITY TO FINANCE A NEW SKILLED NURSING FACILITY ON THE IDAHO STATE HOSPITAL SOUTH CAMPUS.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare owns and operates the skilled nursing facility at State Hospital South licensed for 29 skilled nursing beds, known as Syringa Chalet; and

WHEREAS, Syringa Chalet was built in 1938 and, despite numerous renovations, continues to have potentially serious health and safety concerns and inefficiencies; and

WHEREAS, the concerns and risks associated with the aging building include, but are not limited to: obsolete plumbing, barriers to wireless communications in emergencies, poorly functioning elevators, and the lack of a kitchen; and

WHEREAS, evacuating residents from the Syringa Chalet in an emergency would be a long and difficult process, which is a major safety concern; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Commission and the Bureau of Facility Standards, which enforce the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services' regulations, have expressed concern for the health of the residents, due to the aging infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, in February 2017, with the assistance of the Division of Public Works, the Department of Health and Welfare obtained a planning analysis that recommends the design and construction of a new facility and the demolition of the current Syringa Chalet; and

WHEREAS, the planning analysis recommends that the design and construction of a new facility include the capacity to expand within the initial footprint, in order to be able to meet any future additional needs arising from Idaho's increasing aged population; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Welfare owns real property on the State Hospital South campus that will accommodate a new facility, allowing for the continued operation of skilled nursing services during the construction of the new facility; and

WHEREAS, the timing is favorable for bonding for the design, construction, and furnishing of the new facility.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-fourth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the Legislature authorizes and provides approval for the Department of Health and Welfare to enter into an agreement or agreements with the Idaho State Building Authority, under such terms and conditions as may be reasonable and necessary, to provide financing to design, construct, furnish, and equip a new skilled nursing facility

on real property currently owned by the Department of Health and Welfare on the Idaho State Hospital South campus and thereafter to demolish the existing skilled nursing facility known as Syringa Chalet.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution constitutes the authoriza-

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tion required by the provisions of Section 67-6410, Idaho Code.