

One Hundred Seventh Legislature - First Session - 2021

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB418

Chairperson: Senator John Arch

Committee: Health and Human Services

Date of Hearing: February 10, 2021

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 418 is intended to adopt the Solemn Covenant of States to Award Prizes for Curing Diseases compact ("Compact").

The bill provides that upon enactment by six states, the governing Solemn Covenant of States Commission ("Commission") is established and the Compact becomes binding and effective as to any other state that enacts it into law.

The Commission is granted the power to review treatments for the cure of diseases specified by the Commission, to award prizes for successful cures, and to make treatments widely available for use.

The Commission establishes criteria for defining and classifying diseases for which prizes will be awarded, which must include at least ten major diseases, determined by its severity, survival rate, and public health and treatment expenses. The Commission also adopts criteria for a successful treatment.

The prize amount for each cure shall be equal to (1) the most recent estimated total five-year savings in public health expenses for the disease in all compacting states, (2) money donated by others intended for the prize, and (3) any other factors the Commission finds appropriate. The bill requires a two-thirds favorable vote from all members for a cure approval to be effective and requires the prize winner to transfer the patent and all related intellectual property for a treatment to the Commission in exchange for the prize.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Dave Murman