

House passes certificate of need *undated*

By BEN J. PLASTINO
Post-Register political editor

WASHINGTON — The House has passed its version of certificate of need legislation and it will now go to a conference committee to resolve differences with one passed earlier by the Senate.

Cleve Corlett, press secretary for Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho, told The Post-Register

the Senate bill would delay the July 1, 1979, deadline by one year for states to qualify for health planning care funds. It also could delay for a year the Oct. 1, 1980, deadline for setting new qualifications for most federal health care funding.

The July 1 extension would let Idaho keep some \$360,000 in health care planning funds and the Oct. 1, 1980, extension,

would retain federal funding for Idaho estimated at \$12.6 million, noted Corlett.

Corlett said the Senate Bill, known as SB 544, would set funding in staggered terms. It would deprive each noncomplying state of 25 percent of federal health care funds for each of the subsequent four years, beginning Oct. 1, 1980.

Joseph Califano, secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, earlier extended the health care planning deadline by one month so the House could pass the bill extending the July 1 deadline without affecting funding.

Mark Toledo, Boise, Gov. John V. Evans' administration assistant in health planning, pointed out this likely will save \$360,000 in federal funding for the state.

The House-passed version of House Bill 3917 differs greatly from the Senate measure.

Bob Crane, senior staff associate for the House State and Foreign Commerce Committee, explained it would exempt health maintenance organizations and others of similar nature which provide in-patient and out-patient care; and each state would have until the next regular session to enact legislation to qualify for federal funds.

Crane said there also are a number of small differences, such as board compensations.

Corlett said the Senate conferees are expected to be named and meet to iron out differences during the current Congress session.

The extension gives Idaho another chance to consider the certificate of need legislation in 1980. It was one of the topics Evans had listed for study if he had called a special summer session. He has dropped such plans.