

Congress extends certificate of need limit

By BEN J. PLASTINO

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Congress has passed the Health Planning Act, which extends the deadline for states to qualify for federal health funding under the required cer-

tificate of need.

Cleve Corlett, press secretary for Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho, said the Senate and House conferees resolved the differences between two separate bills passed by each

house and the act now awaits the expected signing by President Carter.

Corlett said under the bill, the secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Department is allowed to extend the time for

states to enact certificate of need laws.

If he finds that states have been making a genuine effort to enact such legislation, he can allow the extension.

He pointed out that this

applies to Idaho and he will determine whether the deadline can be extended so that the state can qualify for an estimated \$12.6 million in federal health matching funds.

Deadlines listed

The deadline was July 1, 1979, for states to qualify for health planning care funds and Oct. 1, 1980, for setting new qualifications for more federal health care funding.

The state has been advised its \$360,000 in health care planning funds are in jeopardy because of failure of the 1979 Idaho Legislature to enact the certificate of need legislation.

Corlett said the secretary will now determine under the new legislation whether Idaho will be given a chance to comply in the 1980 Legislature.

There were a number of differences in separate bills passed by the House and Senate.

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

House bill

House Bill 3917 would exempt health maintenance organizations and others of similar nature which provide inpatient and outpatient care; each state would have until the next regular session to enact the legislation; and there would be procedures in board compensations.

Legislators said the new federal legislation likely gives Idaho another chance to enact the required certificate of need legislation in the 1980 session the coming winter.

Gov. John V. Evans listed the certificate of need legislation as one item to be acted on, had he called a special session this summer.



Head committee tour

LEADING THE JOINT Finance Appropriation Committee tour in Idaho Falls this week were from left John C. Andreason, Boise director of the Legislative Fiscal Office

and former Arco state senator; Rep. Doyle C. Miner, R-St. Anthony, committee co-chairman; and Bruce Balderson, newly appointed legislative auditor.