

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0331

Health care system reform task force.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Jorgensen, Hammons, Lubnau
and Philp

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to healthcare; creating a health care
2 system reform task force; requiring a report; providing for
3 an appropriation; and providing for an effective date.

4

5 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

6

7 **Section 1.**

8

9 (a) There is created a health care system reform task
10 force consisting of eleven (11) members. The task force
11 members shall select a chairman and a vice-chairman.

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13 (b) Two (2) members of the task force shall be
14 members of house of representatives appointed by the
15 speaker of the house. Two (2) members of the task force

1 shall be members of senate appointed by the president of
2 the senate.

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4 (c) Seven (7) members of the task force shall be
5 appointed by the governor as follows:

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7 (i) Two (2) members from the department of
8 health;

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10 (ii) Two (2) members from the Wyoming health
11 care commission; and

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13 (iii) Three (3) members from the public with
14 experience with the healthcare system.

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16 (d) The task force shall meet at the call of the
17 chairman to develop a state plan to promote access to and
18 affordability of health insurance. The elements to be
19 considered as part of a plan shall include:

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21 (i) Expansion of publicly funded programs to
22 reduce the number of uninsured;

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1 (ii) Simplified enrollment in Medicaid to
2 encourage enrollment by persons who are eligible but not
3 yet enrolled;

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5 (iii) Consideration of state participation in a
6 small business purchasing pool or in a basic benefit
7 insurance plan for individuals not eligible for existing
8 publicly funded programs;

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10 (iv) Modifications to the state high-risk
11 insurance pool to expand coverage;

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13 (v) Other options to expand preventative care,
14 chronic case management and other methods which may include
15 strengthening of public health offices and cooperation with
16 other state-funded or nonprofit health organizations to
17 expand preventative care services.

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19 (e) As part of its duties, the task force shall:

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21 (i) Review reports and proposals from the
22 commission on health care system reform that will improve
23 access to and affordability of health care in the state;

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1 (ii) Recommend issues to be considered by the
2 legislature in the 2008 budget session and prioritize
3 additional issues with respect to healthcare for subsequent
4 legislative action; and

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6 (iii) Define a process for public review and
7 discussion of task force topics that includes at least five
8 (5) community town hall meetings in various regions of the
9 state.

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11 (f) The task force shall issue a report to the
12 governor and the joint labor, health and social services
13 interim committee no later than October 15, 2007 including
14 recommendations for a state plan to promote access to and
15 affordability of health insurance, to reduce the number of
16 Wyoming residents without health insurance and to reduce
17 the costs of private health care insurance.

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19 (g) The task force shall be staffed by the governor's
20 office with support from the department of health and the
21 healthcare commission. The task force may contract for
22 administrative and research services to aid in preparation
23 of the task force report. The governor's office shall
24 convene the task force no later than July 15, 2007.

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2 (h) The task force shall exist until October 15,
3 2007. Except for legislative members, members of the task
4 force shall not receive a salary but shall receive
5 reimbursement for necessary travel and per diem expenses in
6 the manner and amount provided for state employees under
7 W.S. 9-3-102 and 9-3-103.

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9 **Section 2.** For purposes of this act for the fiscal
10 biennium ending June 30, 2008, there is appropriated one
11 hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$120,000.00) from the
12 general fund. Of this amount, twenty thousand dollars
13 (\$20,000.00) is appropriated to the legislative service
14 office to fund the salaries, per diem and travel expense of
15 the state legislative members of the task force pursuant to
16 section 1 of this act. The remainder is appropriated to
17 the governor's office to fund the meetings and activities
18 of the task force and to contract with appropriate
19 professionals as necessary to complete the duties assigned
20 to the task force in section 1 of this act.

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1 **Section 3.** This act is effective immediately upon
2 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
3 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
4 Constitution.

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6

(END)