

**DRAFT ONLY
NOT APPROVED FOR
INTRODUCTION**

HOUSE BILL NO.

Behavioral health services task force.

Sponsored by: Joint Labor, Health & Social Services Interim
Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to the legislature; creating the behavioral
2 health services task force; providing for membership on the
3 task force; assigning duties and study topics to the task
4 force; requiring a report; providing appropriations; and
5 providing for an effective date.

6

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

8

9 **Section 1.**

10

11 (a) There is created the behavioral health services
12 task force consisting of the following members:

1

2 (i) Three (3) members of the senate chosen from
3 members of the senate labor, health and social services
4 committee and senate judiciary committee, with not more
5 than two (2) members from the same political party. The
6 members shall be appointed by the president of the senate,
7 one (1) of whom shall be appointed as a cochairman of the
8 committee;

9

10 (ii) Three (3) members of the house of
11 representatives chosen from members of the house labor,
12 health and social services committee and house judiciary
13 committee, with not more than two (2) members from the same
14 political party. The members shall be appointed by the
15 speaker of the house, one (1) of whom shall be appointed as
16 a cochairman of the committee;

17

18 (iii) One (1) member who shall be the director
19 of the department of health or his designee;

20

21 (iv) Three (3) members who shall be mental
22 health care providers specializing in mental health and

1 substance abuse, appointed by the governor with
2 consideration given to geographic distribution;

3

4 (v) One (1) member who shall be a law
5 enforcement officer, appointed by the governor;

6

7 (vi) One (1) member of the public who is a
8 consumer of mental health or substance abuse services,
9 appointed by the governor.

10

11 (b) The task force shall be staffed by the
12 legislative service office. State and local agencies shall
13 provide information and assistance to the task force as
14 requested by the task force.

15

16 (c) The task force shall continue and update the
17 findings and work of the 2005 select committee on mental
18 health and substance abuse services, created by 2005
19 Wyoming Session Laws, Chapter 195, and shall endeavor to
20 provide recommendations for the delivery of high quality,
21 cost effective and accessible community mental health
22 services, substance abuse services and prevention

1 programming to Wyoming's citizens. As part of its work,
2 the task force shall consider and study:

3

4 (i) Changes to or gaps within the findings and
5 recommendations of the 2005 select committee;

6

7 (ii) Necessary and advisable changes to
8 Wyoming's statutory law;

9

10 (iii) The availability of and access to a
11 continuum of mental health services, substance abuse
12 services and prevention programming in the state, including
13 but not limited to:

14

15 (A) The number of beds available in
16 institutions and hospitals for mental health and substance
17 abuse treatment;

18

19 (B) The training available for and levels
20 of training achieved by health care providers who provide
21 mental health services, substance abuse services and
22 prevention programming;

23

1 (C) Recruitment and retention of
2 psychiatrists and other clinical and support staff;

3

4 (D) The number of persons utilizing health
5 care services, substance abuse services and prevention
6 programming in this state and estimates of the number of
7 persons needing those services but who are not receiving
8 the services;

9

10 (E) Adolescent and child mental health and
11 substance abuse clinical services, including residential
12 care;

13

14 (F) Post-hospital and post-incarceration
15 continuum of care and reintegration into communities.

16

17 (iv) Funding for the mental health, substance
18 abuse and prevention systems of care, including but not
19 limited to:

20

21 (A) Funding sources and levels of funding
22 from federal, state, local and private sources; and

23

1 (B) Use of a Medicaid behavioral health
2 waiver.

3

4 (v) The costs of providing effective substance
5 use services, mental health services and prevention
6 programing and any alternatives available in Wyoming to
7 lower costs or improve quality;

8

9 (vi) Statutory authorization for prevention
10 services and services provided by community behavioral
11 health providers.

12

13 (d) The task force shall meet as necessary and shall
14 report its findings and recommendations to the joint labor,
15 health and social services interim committee not later than
16 October 1, 2020. If necessary to complete its work, the
17 task force may submit a preliminary report on October 1,
18 2020 in anticipation of conducting additional studies and
19 submitting a final report to the joint labor, health and
20 social services interim committee not later than October 1,
21 2021. Upon receiving a final report from the task force,
22 the joint labor, health and social services interim
23 committee shall consider any recommendations in the report

1 and develop any legislation it deems appropriate for
2 consideration by the legislature.

3

4 (e) The task force shall terminate on December 31,
5 2021.

6

7 (f) When performing official duties as members of the
8 task force, legislative members of the task force shall be
9 paid salary, mileage and per diem in the amount and manner
10 provided for members of an interim committee under W.S. 28-
11 5-101 and 28-5-102 but shall earn no salary for
12 preparation. Chairmen of the task force shall not earn any
13 chairmen salary for their chairmanship of the task force.
14 Members of the task force who are not government employees,
15 government officials or legislators shall not receive a
16 separate salary but shall be paid expenses in the amount
17 provided by W.S. 9-3-102 and 9-3-103 for their official
18 duties as members of the task force. A government employee
19 or official who is a member of the task force shall be
20 considered to be acting within the scope of regular
21 employment when conducting the official business of the
22 task force and shall receive their regular pay without
23 additional compensation except they shall receive mileage

1 and per diem as provided under this subsection if they are
2 not reimbursed by their employer.

3
4 **Section 2.**

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6 (a) There is appropriated twenty-five thousand
7 dollars (\$25,000.00) from the general fund to the
8 legislative service office for the purpose of providing
9 payments to legislative members of the behavioral health
10 services task force as authorized by section 1(e) of this
11 act and for other expenses of the task force authorized by
12 law or policy of the legislature. This appropriation shall
13 be for the period beginning with the effective date of this
14 act and ending June 30, 2022. This appropriation shall not
15 be transferred or expended for any other purpose and any
16 unexpended, unobligated funds remaining from this
17 appropriation shall revert as provided by law on June 30,
18 2022.

19
20 (b) There is appropriated thirteen thousand dollars
21 (\$13,000.00) from the general fund to the governor's office
22 for the purpose of providing payments to nonlegislative
23 members of the behavioral health services task force as

1 authorized by section 1(e) of this act. This appropriation
2 shall be for the period beginning with the effective date
3 of this act and ending June 30, 2022. This appropriation
4 shall not be transferred or expended for any other purpose
5 and any unexpended, unobligated funds remaining from this
6 appropriation shall revert as provided by law on June 30,
7 2022.

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9 **STAFF COMMENT**

10 LSO estimates that the appropriations provided
11 above would allow the task force to meet for 6,
12 1-day meetings during the 2020 interim. If the
13 task force were continued into a second year, the
14 legislature would need to appropriate additional
15 funds.

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

22

23 (END)