

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0019

State Indian Child Welfare Act task force.

Sponsored by: Select Committee on Tribal Relations

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to children; creating the state Indian
2 Child Welfare Act task force; specifying members and duties
3 of the task force; requiring a report; providing a
4 termination date for the task force; providing
5 appropriations; and providing for an effective date.

6

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

8

9 **Section 1.**

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11 (a) There is created the state Indian Child Welfare
12 Act task force to consist of the following:

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14 (i) The director of the department of family
15 services or the director's designee;

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1 (ii) One (1) county or prosecuting attorney in
2 Wyoming, appointed by the governor;

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4 (iii) One (1) private attorney who practices
5 predominantly family law in Wyoming and is familiar with
6 the federal Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, appointed by
7 the governor;

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9 (iv) Two (2) persons appointed by the governor
10 upon the recommendation of the Eastern Shoshone business
11 council;

12

13 (v) Two (2) persons appointed by the governor
14 upon the recommendation of the Northern Arapaho business
15 council;

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17 (vi) Two (2) members of the Wyoming house of
18 representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house. The
19 speaker of the house shall designate from one (1) of the
20 members appointed under this paragraph a cochairperson of
21 the task force;

22

1 (vii) Two (2) members of the Wyoming senate,
2 appointed by the president of the senate. The president of
3 the senate shall designate from one (1) of the members
4 appointed under this paragraph a cochairperson of the task
5 force.

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7 (b) The task force shall study the federal Indian
8 Child Welfare Act of 1978, P.L. 95-608, 25 U.S.C. §§ 1901-
9 1963, other states' Indian child welfare laws and existing
10 protections and provisions for Indian children throughout
11 Wyoming statutes.

12
13 (c) The task force shall meet as necessary and shall
14 consult with national experts in child welfare and Indian
15 Child Welfare Act protections and procedures.

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17 (d) The task force shall develop legislative
18 recommendations to incorporate the protections and
19 procedures of the federal Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978
20 into state law. Not later than July 1, 2024, the task force
21 shall report its determinations and any recommendations to
22 the select committee on tribal relations, the joint
23 judiciary interim committee and the governor.

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2 (e) The legislative members of the task force shall
3 receive salary, per diem and travel expenses in the manner
4 and amount prescribed by W.S. 28-5-101. Task force members
5 who are not legislators and are not government employees
6 shall receive salary, per diem and mileage in the amount
7 provided for members of the Wyoming legislature under W.S.
8 28-5-101. Task force members who are government employees
9 or officials shall be considered to be acting within the
10 scope of regular employment when conducting the official
11 business of the task force and shall receive their regular
12 pay without additional compensation except they shall
13 receive mileage and per diem as provided for other members
14 of the task force under this subsection if they are not
15 reimbursed by their employer.

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17 (f) The task force shall be staffed by the
18 legislative service office.

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20 (g) The task force shall terminate December 31, 2024.

21

22 **Section 2.**

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1 (a) There is appropriated forty thousand dollars
2 (\$40,000.00) from the general fund to the governor's office
3 for the purpose of providing salary, mileage and per diem
4 to nonlegislative members of the state Indian Child Welfare
5 Act task force as authorized by section 1 of this act. This
6 appropriation shall be for the period beginning with the
7 effective date of this act and ending June 30, 2025. This
8 appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any
9 other purpose and any unexpended, unobligated funds
10 remaining from this appropriation shall revert as provided
11 by law on June 30, 2025.

12

13 (b) There is appropriated forty thousand dollars
14 (\$40,000.00) from the general fund to the legislative
15 service office for the purpose of providing salary, mileage
16 and per diem to legislative members of the state Indian
17 Child Welfare Act task force as authorized by section 1 of
18 this act and for other expenses of the state Indian Child
19 Welfare Act task force authorized by law or policy of the
20 legislature. This appropriation shall be for the period
21 beginning with the effective date of this act and ending
22 June 30, 2025. This appropriation shall not be transferred
23 or expended for any other purpose and any unexpended,

1 unobligated funds remaining from this appropriation shall
2 revert as provided by law on June 30, 2025.

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

8

9

(END)