

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0046

Health care commission.

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

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to health care; establishing a health care
2 commission within the governor's office; providing for
3 membership; authorizing an advisory board as specified;
4 specifying duties; requiring the commission to submit its
5 recommendations to the legislature as specified;
6 authorizing the commission to hire a director and staff;
7 providing an appropriation; providing for the termination
8 of the commission, board and staff positions as specified;
9 and providing for an effective date.

10

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

12

13 **Section 1.** W.S. 9-2-2801 through 9-2-2805 are created
14 to read:

15

1 **9-2-2801. Health care commission created; membership;**
2 **salary; meetings; termination.**

3

4 (a) The Wyoming health care commission is established
5 within the governor's office to study issues related to the
6 rising costs of health care to Wyoming citizens.

7

8 (b) The commission shall consist of seven (7) members
9 appointed by the governor including:

10

11 (i) The director of the department of health, or
12 designee;

13

14 (ii) The director of the department of family
15 services, or designee;

16

17 (iii) The governor's policy advisor on health
18 and human services; and

19

20 (iv) Four (4) residents of the state appointed
21 at large.

22

23 (c) Appointed commission members shall serve until
24 completion of duties delegated to the commission under this

1 article. If a vacancy occurs on the commission, the
2 governor shall appoint a new member to fill the vacancy for
3 the remainder of the term. The governor may remove members
4 as provided in W.S. 9-1-202. Commission members who are not
5 state employees shall receive a salary equal to the per
6 diem paid members of the Wyoming legislature under W.S.
7 28-5-101 for each day of actual service and when engaged in
8 necessary travel plus necessary expenses.

9

10 (d) At the first meeting of the commission, the
11 members shall elect one (1) member to serve as chairman.

12

13 (e) The commission shall meet not less than monthly
14 at the call of the chairman. Four (4) members shall
15 constitute a quorum.

16

17 (f) As used in this article, "commission" means the
18 Wyoming health care commission created by this section.

19

20 **9-2-2802. Advisory board; membership; salary;**
21 **termination.**

22

1 (a) There is created an advisory board to assist the
2 commission as necessary, consisting of the following
3 members appointed by the governor:

4
5 (i) A physician licensed in Wyoming;

6
7 (ii) A registered nurse licensed in Wyoming;

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9 (iii) A pharmacist licensed in Wyoming;

10
11 (iv) A dentist licensed in Wyoming;

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13 (v) A psychologist licensed in Wyoming;

14
15 (vi) A vision specialist;

16
17 (vii) A representative of a hospital;

18
19 (viii) A provider of long term care services;

20
21 (ix) An attorney licensed in Wyoming;

22
23 (x) A representative for the Wyoming insurance
24 department;

1

2 (xi) A representative for a health care insurer
3 operating in Wyoming;

4

5 (xii) An uninsured resident of the state;

6

7 (xiii) A representative for a pharmaceutical
8 manufacturer;

9

10 (xiv) A wellness program representative;

11

12 (xv) The dean of the University of Wyoming
13 college of health sciences, or designee;

14

15 (xvi) A representative involved in K-12 school
16 education;

17

18 (xvii) Representatives for large and small
19 employers;

20

21 (xviii) A representative for senior citizens.

22

23 (b) Advisory board members shall serve until
24 completion of duties delegated to the commission under this

1 article. If a vacancy occurs on the board, the governor
2 shall appoint a new member to fill the vacancy for the
3 remainder of the term. The governor may remove members as
4 provided in W.S. 9-1-202. Services rendered by advisory
5 board members shall be voluntary and shall not be
6 compensated, except for meal, lodging and travel expenses
7 as provided in W.S. 9-3-102 and 9-3-103.

8

9 (c) Members of the advisory board shall meet at the
10 call of the chairman of the commission.

11

12 **9-2-2803. Director; appointment; duties; additional**
13 **staff; qualifications.**

14

15 (a) The governor, with the consent of the commission,
16 shall appoint a director who shall serve at the pleasure of
17 the commission. The director shall:

18

19 (i) Serve as administrative head of the
20 commission;

21

22 (ii) Perform duties prescribed by the commission
23 and assist the commission in carrying out the duties
24 imposed under this article; and

1

2 (iii) Not be subject to W.S. 9-2-1019, 9-2-1022
3 and 9-3-101 through 9-3-104 but shall receive compensation
4 and be reimbursed for travel and other necessary expenses
5 as prescribed by the commission and approved by the
6 governor.

7

8 (b) Subject to approval by the commission, the
9 director may employ one (1) staff member to assist the
10 commission in performing its duties. The staff member shall
11 possess those administrative, technical, professional and
12 clerical qualifications determined necessary by the
13 commission. All staff to the commission shall serve at the
14 pleasure of the director.

15

16 **9-2-2804. Health care commission duties; report; open**
17 **meetings; attorney general to represent; rulemaking.**

18

19 (a) The commission shall develop strategies to
20 improve health care and reduce health care costs for
21 Wyoming citizens by holding public meetings throughout the
22 state, hearing from experts and other interested parties,
23 studying and researching other states' actions on health
24 care, studying and utilizing Wyoming data, considering past

1 efforts and future possibilities that can be useful in
2 decision making by addressing the following:

3

4 (i) Access to an affordable, effective and
5 quality health care system for Wyoming, including rural
6 areas of the state;

7

8 (ii) Access to affordable health insurance;

9

10 (iii) Issues of wellness and individual
11 responsibility for personal health;

12

13 (iv) Disease prevention and wellness promotion;

14

15 (v) Medical malpractice issues and defensive
16 medicine practices;

17

18 (vi) Medical malpractice and health insurance
19 regulation;

20

21 (vii) Workforce shortages among medical provider
22 professions;

23

1 (viii) Federal programs and their effect on
2 health care in Wyoming;

3

4 (ix) Cost shifting by medical providers that
5 occurs as a result of low reimbursement from public and
6 other programs;

7

8 (x) School health issues;

9

10 (xi) Mental, oral, vision and physical health
11 issues;

12

13 (xii) Issues related to why individuals and
14 families may lack adequate health insurance coverage;

15

16 (xiii) The aging population in Wyoming and the
17 long term care services that will be needed by that
18 population;

19

20 (xiv) Duplication of medical services.

21

22 (b) The commission shall submit to the joint labor,
23 health and social services interim committee a preliminary
24 report on its findings no later than June 30, 2004, and a

1 final report with its recommendations for legislative
2 changes by December 1, 2004.

3

4 (c) Public hearings of the commission shall be held
5 in accordance with W.S. 16-4-401 et seq. The attorney
6 general shall be the legal adviser of the commission.

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8 **9-2-2805. Termination of article.**

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10 W.S. 9-2-2801 through 9-2-2804 are repealed effective
11 December 31, 2004.

12

13 **Section 2.** There is appropriated three hundred fifty
14 thousand dollars (\$350,000.00) from the general fund to the
15 governor's office for the period beginning April 1, 2003
16 through December 30, 2004 to implement the purposes of this
17 act. Notwithstanding W.S. 9-4-207, the appropriation under
18 this section shall not lapse at the end of the biennium
19 ending June 30, 2004.

20

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.

5

6

(END)