Pandemic response review task force.

Sponsored by: Joint Corporations, Elections & Political Subdivisions Interim Committee

A BILL for

AN ACT relating to public health; creating the pandemic response review task force; specifying duties of the task force; requiring a report; providing a termination date for the task force; providing appropriations; and providing for an effective date.

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

Section 1.

(a) There is created the Wyoming pandemic response review task force to consist of the following:

(i) One (1) representative of the department of health, appointed by the governor;
(ii) One (1) representative of the state's K-12 educational community, appointed by the governor;

(iii) One (1) representative of the state's business community, appointed by the governor;

(iv) One (1) member of an association representing county commissioners, appointed by the governor;

(v) One (1) enrolled member of the Northern Arapaho Indian tribe or Eastern Shoshone Indian tribe, appointed by the governor;

(vi) Two (2) Wyoming health care practitioners whose practice includes seeing patients, appointed by the governor;

(vii) Three (3) members of the Wyoming house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house. The speaker of the house shall designate a cochairman of the task force;
(viii) Three (3) members of the Wyoming senate, appointed by the president of the senate. The president of the senate shall designate a cochairman of the task force.

(b) The task force shall study the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the state's ability to respond to pandemics and other disease outbreaks generally. This study shall include evaluation of:

(i) The development of Wyoming statutes governing public health orders since statehood;

(ii) The authority granted in W.S. 35-1-240 to the department of health to issue public health orders;

(iii) The distribution of statutory authority provided to the department of health and local health officers to address disease outbreaks;

(iv) The effectiveness of public health orders issued during the COVID-19 pandemic to mitigate the spread of the disease;
(v) Consistency or inconsistency of local health officer efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic to mitigate the spread of the disease;

(vi) State and local law enforcement authorities' responsibilities to enforce public health orders;

(vii) The impact of public health orders issued during the COVID-19 pandemic on businesses, communities and the state's economy; and

(viii) The response of Wyoming K-12 schools and institutions of higher education to the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of public health orders issued during the COVID-19 pandemic on Wyoming K-12 schools and institutions of higher education.

(c) The goal of the task force is to develop legislative recommendations to improve the state's response to future pandemics and other disease outbreaks. The task force shall report its findings and any recommendations to
the joint labor, health and social services interim
committee, the joint corporations, elections and political
subdivisions interim committee and the governor on or
before July 1, 2022.

(d) The legislative members of the task force shall
receive compensation, per diem and travel expenses in the
manner and amount prescribed by W.S. 28-5-101. Task force
members who are not legislators and are not state employees
shall receive the compensation, per diem and mileage paid
members of the Wyoming legislature under W.S. 28-5-101.

(e) The task force shall be staffed by the
legislative service office and the department of health.

(f) The task force shall terminate December 31, 2022.

Section 2.

(a) There is appropriated ten thousand dollars
($10,000.00) from the general fund to the governor's office
to pay compensation, mileage and per diem for
nonlegislative members of the task force. This
appropriation shall be for the period beginning with the effective date of this act and ending June 30, 2023. This appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any other purpose and any unexpended, unobligated funds remaining from this appropriation shall revert as provided by law on June 30, 2023.

(b) There is appropriated fifty thousand dollars ($50,000.00) from the general fund to the legislative service office to pay for salary, mileage and per diem of legislative members appointed to the task force. This appropriation shall be for the period beginning with the effective date of this act and ending June 30, 2023. This appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any other purpose and any unexpended, unobligated funds remaining from this appropriation shall revert as provided by law on June 30, 2023.
Section 3. This act is effective immediately upon completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming Constitution.