

**DRAFT ONLY  
NOT APPROVED FOR  
INTRODUCTION**

HOUSE BILL NO.

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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1           (i) The director of the department of family  
2 services or the director's designee;

3

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

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7           (iii) One (1) private attorney who practices  
8 predominantly family law in Wyoming, appointed by the  
9 governor;

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

14

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

18

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

1

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

7

8 (viii) Two (2) representatives of the judiciary,  
9 appointed by the chief justice of the Wyoming supreme  
10 court.

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12 (b) The task force shall study the federal Indian  
13 Child Welfare Act of 1978, Pub. L. 95-608, 25 U.S.C. §§  
14 1901-1963, other states' state Indian child welfare laws  
15 and existing protections and provisions for Indian children  
16 throughout Wyoming statutes.

17

18 (c) The task force shall meet as necessary and shall  
19 consult with national experts in child welfare and Indian  
20 Child Welfare Act protections and procedures.

21

22 (d) The task force shall develop legislative  
23 recommendations to incorporate the protections and

1 procedures of the federal Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978  
2 into state law. Not later than July 1, 2024, the task force  
3 shall report its determinations and any recommendations to  
4 the select committee on tribal relations, the joint  
5 judiciary interim committee and the governor.

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

21  
22 (f) The task force shall be staffed by the  
23 legislative service office.

1

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

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4 **Section 2.**

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

17

18 (b) There is appropriated forty thousand dollars  
19 (\$40,000.00) from the general fund to the legislative  
20 service office for the purpose of providing salary, mileage  
21 and per diem to legislative members of the state Indian  
22 Child Welfare Act task force as authorized by section 1(e)  
23 of this act and for other expenses of the state Indian

1 Child Welfare Act task force authorized by law or policy of  
2 the legislature. This appropriation shall be for the period  
3 beginning with the effective date of this act and ending  
4 June 30, 2025. This appropriation shall not be transferred  
5 or expended for any other purpose and any unexpended,  
6 unobligated funds remaining from this appropriation shall  
7 revert as provided by law on June 30, 2025.

8

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

13

14 ( END )