

**DRAFT ONLY
NOT APPROVED FOR
INTRODUCTION**

HOUSE BILL NO. [BILL NUMBER]

Wyoming health care commission.

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

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to health care; establishing the Wyoming
2 health care commission within the governor's office;
3 providing for membership of the commission; authorizing the
4 appointment of an executive director for the commission;
5 authorizing the commission to contract for services;
6 specifying duties of the commission; requiring reports;
7 providing for the sunset of the commission; providing
8 appropriations; and providing for an effective date.

9

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

11

1 **Section 1.** W.S. 9-2-2805 through 9-2-2809 are created
2 to read:

3

4 **9-2-2805. Health care commission created; membership;**
5 **salary; meetings; advisory subcommittees.**

6

7 (a) The Wyoming health care commission is established
8 within the governor's office to study issues related to the
9 access, cost and quality of health care for Wyoming
10 citizens.

11

12 (b) The commission shall consist of thirteen (13)
13 members appointed by the governor. A majority of the
14 persons appointed and serving as members of the commission
15 shall be qualified voters of the state of Wyoming. The
16 governor shall designate one (1) member to serve as
17 chairman. The commission membership shall include each of
18 the following voting members:

19

20 (i) A licensed physician practicing in Wyoming;

21

22 (ii) A licensed nurse practicing in Wyoming;

23

1 (iii) A Wyoming hospital administrator;

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3 (iv) An administrator of a federally qualified
4 health center or health facility in Wyoming;

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6 (v) A licensed emergency medical services
7 provider operating in Wyoming;

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9 (vi) A licensed behavioral health provider
10 practicing in Wyoming;

11

12 (vii) An administrator or dean of a Wyoming
13 higher education institution;

14

15 (viii) A Wyoming business owner;

16

17 (ix) A representative of a private insurance
18 carrier operating in Wyoming;

19

20 (x) A representative of an insurance carrier
21 operating in Wyoming that provides coverage through the
22 federal health insurance marketplace;

23

1 (xi) A representative of the Eastern Shoshone
2 tribe or Northern Arapaho tribe, or a representative of the
3 cooperative tribal governing body;

4

5 (xii) Two (2) members at large.

6

7 (c) The following persons shall serve as ex officio,
8 nonvoting members of the commission:

9

10 (i) The director of the department of health or
11 the director's designee;

12

13 (ii) The director of the department of insurance
14 or the director's designee;

15

16 (iii) The director of the department of
17 administration and information or the director's designee;

18

19 (iv) The director of the department of family
20 services or the director's designee;

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22 (v) The director of the department of workforce
23 services or the director's designee;

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(vi) The chairmen of the joint labor, health and social services interim committee or a designee appointed by the appropriate chairperson.

STAFF COMMENT

The membership of the Wyoming Health Care Commission as outlined above is the same as the membership of the board for the Wyoming Health Care Authority (25LSO-0037). The Committee may wish to consider the membership of the Commission for the policy purposes of this bill draft.

(d) Appointed commission members shall serve until completion of duties delegated to the commission under this article. If a vacancy occurs on the commission, the governor shall appoint a new member to fill the vacancy. The governor may remove members as provided in W.S. 9-1-202. Members of the commission who are not government employees or public officers shall receive the same per diem, expenses and travel allowance as members of the legislature under W.S. 28-5-101 while in attendance at meetings of the commission and while performing their duties as members of the commission. Members who are

1 government employees or public officials shall be
2 considered on official business of their agency when
3 performing duties as members of the board.

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7 **STAFF COMMENT**

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9 The Wyoming Health Care Commission, as created by this bill
10 draft, is modeled after other statutory Commissions and
11 does not include terms limits for members due to the fact
12 that the Commission is time-limited and is currently set to
13 sunset in 2030. The Committee may wish to consider to
14 establishing terms for the members of the Commission for
15 the policy purposes of this bill draft.

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20 (e) The commission shall meet regularly but not less
21 than four (4) times per year. Seven (7) voting members
22 shall constitute a quorum of the commission to conduct
23 business.

24

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

27

28 (g) The commission may form advisory subcommittees to
29 assist with the duties imposed under this article. An
30 advisory subcommittee may include commission members and

1 any other person who has expertise in the area of study to
2 be considered by the advisory subcommittee.

3

4 (h) The commission is subject to the requirements of:

5

6 (i) The Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act,
7 W.S. 16-3-101 through 16-3-105;

8

9 (ii) The Wyoming Public Records Act, W.S. 16-4-
10 201 through 16-4-205;

11

12 (iii) The Wyoming Public Meetings Act, W.S. 16-4-
13 401 through 16-4-408.

14

15 **9-2-2806. Executive director; appointment; duties;**
16 **contracts for services; attorney general to represent.**

17

18 (a) The governor, with the advice of the commission,
19 shall appoint an executive director who shall serve at the
20 pleasure of the commission. The executive director shall
21 serve as the administrative head of the commission and
22 perform duties to assist the commission in carrying out the
23 duties imposed under this article.

1

2 (b) The executive director shall receive compensation
3 and be reimbursed for travel and other necessary expenses
4 as prescribed by the commission and approved by the
5 governor.

6

7 (c) The commission, with approval from the governor,
8 may contract for services with recognized health care
9 systems experts as necessary to assist in the technical
10 aspects of data development, review and analysis.

11

12 (d) The attorney general shall be the legal advisor
13 for the commission.

14

15 **9-2-2807. Health care commission duties.**

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

1 be useful in decision making. The commission shall
2 formulate solutions or recommendations to address and
3 improve the following:

4

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

8

9 (ii) Access to affordable health insurance;

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

13

14 (iv) Disease prevention and management;

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16 (v) Workforce shortages among health care
17 providers and similar professionals;

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21 **STAFF COMMENT**

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23 Based on the Committee's consideration of the availability
24 and access to obstetric and gynecological care and
25 providers in Wyoming this interim, paragraph (ix) on the
26 next page, provides a specific duty for the Commission to
27 consider that topic. The Committee may wish to consider

1 whether that is adequately covered in paragraph (v) or if
2 any additional duties should be added to the Commission.

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7 (vi) Identification of regulatory burdens on
8 health care industries in Wyoming through collaboration
9 with health care partners, Wyoming state agencies and other
10 governmental agencies;

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12 (vii) Cost shifting by health care providers that
13 occurs as a result of low reimbursement from public and
14 other programs;

15
16 (viii) Transparency and effective communication
17 in the health care system;

18
19 (ix) Access to obstetric and gynecological
20 providers and care throughout the state;

21
22 (x) The aging population in Wyoming and the long
23 term care services that will be needed by that population;

24

1 (xi) A system to investigate and reduce health
2 care errors with provision of compensation for errors due
3 to negligence;

4

5 (xii) Except as provided by subsection (b) of
6 this section, other issues as deemed appropriate by the
7 governor and the commission.

8

9 (b) It shall not be the purpose or duty of the
10 commission to consider the scope of practice of any
11 licensed health care profession.

12

13 **9-2-2808. Reports; recommendations for legislation.**

14

15 The commission shall annually report to the governor and
16 the joint labor, health and social services interim
17 committee not later than October 1 with respect to the
18 progress of the commission in meeting its duties under this
19 article. The commission may provide legislative
20 recommendations for the improvement of health care in
21 Wyoming and for the advancement or improvement of any of
22 the study areas that form the duties of the commission
23 under W.S. 9-2-2807(a).

1

2 **9-2-2809. Sunset of the commission.**

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4 W.S. 9-2-2805 through 9-2-2808 are repealed effective June
5 30, 2030.

6

7 **Section 2.**

8

9 (a) The governor's office is authorized up to one (1)
10 full-time position to employ an executive director for the
11 Wyoming health care commission for the period beginning
12 with the effective date of this act and ending June 30,
13 2030.

14

15 (b) There is appropriated XXXX dollars (\$XXXX.00) from
16 the general fund to the governor's office for purposes of
17 employing an executive director and for salary,
18 administrative expenses and costs of implementing the
19 provisions of this act by the Wyoming health care
20 commission. This appropriation shall be for the period
21 beginning with the effective date of this act and ending
22 June 30, 2026. 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, 2026.

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6 **STAFF COMMENT**

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8 Section 2 on the previous page provides template language
9 to authorize one FTE and an appropriation to the Governor's
10 Office for the Committee's consideration in determining
11 what, if any, appropriation may be needed to create and
12 operate the Wyoming Health Care Commission.

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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)