

**DRAFT ONLY
NOT APPROVED FOR
INTRODUCTION**

HOUSE BILL NO.

Wyoming rural health transformation.

Sponsored by: Joint Appropriations Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to public health; establishing the Wyoming
2 rural health transformation program; creating an advisory
3 committee; creating a perpetuity fund; authorizing
4 investments as specified; creating an expenditure account;
5 continuously appropriating an annually required
6 distribution; providing for governance, fiscal controls,
7 accountability and reporting requirements; authorizing
8 expenditures, initiatives, grants and awards; authorizing
9 the provision of out-of-state telehealth services; making
10 conforming amendments; providing for deposits and
11 appropriations; requiring rulemaking; directing studies;
12 and providing an effective dates.

13

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

2

3 *****

4 *****

5 **STAFF COMMENT**

6 **This bill draft is undergoing internal LSO and legislative**
7 **review. Technical or substantive changes may be identified**
8 **prior to final adoption.**

9 *****

10 *****

11

12 **Section 1.** W.S. 35-25-701 through 35-25-710 are
13 created to read:

14

15 **ARTICLE 7**

16 **WYOMING RURAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION**

17

18 **35-25-701. Short title.**

19

20 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Wyoming
21 Rural Health Transformation Sustainability, Accountability
22 and Fiscal Protection Act."

23

24 **35-25-702. Definitions.**

25

26 (a) As used in this article:

27

1 (i) "Advisory committee" means the Wyoming rural
2 health transformation advisory committee created in W.S.
3 35-25-703;

4
5 (ii) "Annual required distribution" means:

6
7 (A) Beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June
8 30, 2036, four percent (4%) of the cumulative total of
9 funds deposited into the perpetuity fund since inception,
10 as calculated on the first day of each fiscal year;

11
12 (B) Beginning July 1, 2036 and each fiscal
13 year thereafter, four percent (4%) of the previous five (5)
14 year average market value of the perpetuity fund, as
15 calculated on the first day of each fiscal year.

16
17 (iii) "Department" means the department of
18 health;

19
20 (iv) "Perpetuity fund" means the Wyoming rural
21 health transformation perpetuity fund created in W.S. 35-
22 25-704;

23

1 (v) "Purpose-dedicated share" means a discrete
2 fractional interest of the annual required distribution
3 allocated to a specific allowable perpetuity fund
4 expenditure authorized in W.S. 35-25-706;

5
6 (vi) "Rural health transformation funds" means
7 federal funds awarded to the state of Wyoming under the
8 federal rural health transformation program established by
9 section 71401 of the federal One Big Beautiful Bill Act,
10 P.L. 119-21;

11
12 (vii) "Wyoming rural health transformation plan"
13 means the rural health transformation program application
14 submitted to and approved by the federal government
15 pursuant to section 71401 of the federal One Big Beautiful
16 Bill Act, P.L. 119-21, and shall include any terms and
17 conditions specified in any associated notice of award,
18 cooperative agreement or similar federal instrument
19 governing the receipt or use of funds, and any amendments
20 thereto;

21
22 (viii) "Wyoming rural health transformation
23 program" means the program established in W.S. 35-25-705.

1

2 **35-25-703. Wyoming rural health transformation**
3 **advisory committee; legislative liaisons.**

4

5 (a) There is created the Wyoming rural health
6 transformation advisory committee. The advisory committee
7 shall be composed of (9) members, each of whom shall serve
8 for a term of four (4) years. The governor shall make
9 appointments and fill any vacancies for unexpired terms.
10 Members are eligible for reappointment. The governor may
11 remove any member as provided in W.S. 9-1-202.

12

13 (b) The director of the department or the director's
14 designee and the director of the state budget department or
15 the director's designee shall serve as an ex officio
16 members of the advisory committee, having the right to
17 speak but not to vote.

18

19 (c) One (1) senator appointed by the president of the
20 senate and one (1) representative appointed by the speaker
21 of the house shall serve as legislative liaisons to the
22 advisory committee.

23

1 (d) The advisory committee shall select one (1) of
2 its voting members to serve as chairman.

3

4 (e) The advisory committee shall meet not less than
5 two (2) times per year.

6

7 (f) Voting members shall serve without compensation
8 but shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the
9 performance of their duties in the manner and amounts
10 provided by law for state employees. Legislative liaisons
11 shall be paid salary, per diem and mileage as provided in
12 W.S. 28-5-101 when attending meetings of the advisory
13 council.

14

15 (g) The advisory committee shall review the
16 operations of the perpetuity fund and provide any formal
17 written recommendations to the department regarding the
18 annual required distribution and allowable perpetuity fund
19 expenditures. The department shall review any
20 recommendations from the advisory committee and provide a
21 written response.

22

1 (h) The advisory committee shall review each single
2 grant, award or expenditure of rural health transformation
3 funds in excess of five hundred thousand dollars
4 (\$500,000.00), excluding deposits into the perpetuity fund.

5

6 **35-25-704. Wyoming rural health transformation**
7 **perpetuity fund; investment; distributions.**

8

9 (a) There is created the Wyoming rural health
10 transformation perpetuity fund. The perpetuity fund shall
11 consist of monies designated to the fund by law and other
12 contributions, grants, gifts, bequests and donations made
13 to the fund.

14

15 (b) The state treasurer, or the treasurer's designee,
16 who shall be registered under the Investment Advisor's Act
17 of 1940, as amended, if required to be registered by the
18 terms of that act, as amended, shall invest the
19 unobligated, unencumbered balance of the Wyoming rural
20 health transformation perpetuity fund as authorized by law.
21 Investments of the perpetuity fund shall be in accordance
22 with subsection (c) of this section, if effective, and W.S.
23 9-4-715(a) and (c) through (e) and 9-4-716. All investment

1 earnings shall be deposited to the fund. In adopting
2 investment policy statements for the perpetuity fund, the
3 state loan and investment board, in consultation with the
4 investment funds committee, shall seek to preserve the
5 balance of the fund in a manner that strives for the
6 highest possible risk-adjusted total net return consistent
7 with an appropriate level of safety and liquidity to
8 maintain a consistent annual required distribution.

9
10 (c) If this article is enacted by the legislature
11 pursuant to the voting requirements of article 16, section
12 6(a)(ii)(B) of the Wyoming constitution, the state
13 treasurer shall invest two-thirds (2/3) of the unobligated,
14 unencumbered balance of the perpetuity fund in equities,
15 including stocks of corporations.

16
17 (d) All monies deposited to the perpetuity fund,
18 including investment earnings, shall be expended only for
19 the allowable perpetuity fund expenditures authorized under
20 the Wyoming rural health transformation program and in
21 accordance with the terms and conditions under which the
22 monies are received. Rural health transformation funds, and
23 investment earnings thereon, expended in violation of the

1 terms and conditions under which the monies are received
2 shall be returned by the state to the federal source from
3 which the monies originated.

4

5 (e) Each one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) of
6 principal deposited to the perpetuity fund shall be
7 allocated to one (1) specific purpose-dedicated share by
8 the department, or fractional value thereof.

9

10 (f) The annual required distribution is continuously
11 appropriated to the Wyoming rural health transformation
12 expenditure account, which is hereby created. The state
13 treasurer shall annually credit the annual required
14 distribution to the expenditure account not later than
15 September 30 of each year. Monies in the account shall
16 only be expended by the department for allowable perpetuity
17 fund expenditures under W.S. 35-25-706, the Wyoming rural
18 health transformation plan and all other requirements and
19 limitations specified in this article.

20

21 (g) The total amount of the annual required
22 distribution expended on each allowable perpetuity fund
23 expenditure shall reasonably reflect the total number of

1 purpose-dedicated shares initially allocated to that
2 expenditure, divided by the total number of all purpose-
3 dedicated shares in the perpetuity fund, recognizing that
4 the eligible number of applicants for each allowable
5 perpetuity fund expenditure may vary from year to year.

6
7 **35-25-705. Wyoming rural health transformation**
8 **program.**

9
10 There is established the Wyoming rural health
11 transformation program within the department. The
12 department shall administer the program, with assistance
13 from the advisory committee. The program shall be
14 implemented in accordance with the Wyoming rural health
15 transformation plan and shall be limited to the allowable
16 perpetuity fund expenditures authorized in W.S. 35-25-706
17 and the time-limited initiatives authorized in W.S. 35-25-
18 707. The department shall promulgate rules necessary to
19 implement this section and the program.

20
21 **35-25-706. Wyoming rural health transformation**
22 **program; allowable perpetuity fund expenditures.**

1 (a) Subject to the availability of funds, the
2 department shall expend the annual required distribution
3 solely for the allowable perpetuity fund expenditures
4 authorized under this section, in broad proportion to the
5 allocation of purpose-dedicated shares, and in amounts that
6 seek to achieve the percentage targets of the annual
7 required distribution for support, grants and awards
8 specified in this section.

9

10 (b) Forty and seven-tenths percent (40.7%) of the
11 annual required distribution for the critical access
12 hospital basic incentive program (CAHB). The department
13 shall provide incentive payments to hospitals that elect to
14 participate and that meet service delivery requirements,
15 subject to the following:

16

17 (i) To qualify for incentive payments under this
18 subsection, a participating hospital shall meet all of the
19 following requirements:

20

21 (A) Operate a staffed twenty-four (24) hour
22 emergency department with stroke and trauma imaging
23 capability;

1

2 (B) Provide or operate ground ambulance
3 services within its service area;

4

5 (C) Provide basic labor and delivery
6 services if annual births exceed a threshold established by
7 the department;

8

9 (D) Participate in the statewide health
10 information exchange.

11

12 (ii) Incentive payments under this subsection may
13 include tiered payments, one (1) time grants, medical debt
14 relief for Wyoming residents and ongoing payments to offset
15 fixed costs.

16

17 (c) Twenty-six and nine-tenths percent (26.9%) of the
18 annual required distribution for emergency medical service
19 regionalization. After the submission of the statewide
20 emergency medical services response time model to the joint
21 labor, health and social services interim committee
22 required under paragraph (i) of this subsection, the
23 department shall provide incentive payments to emergency

1 medical service providers that elect to participate and
2 that meet regionalization requirements established by rule
3 of the department, subject to the following:

4
5 (i) The department shall not require or implement
6 emergency medical service regionalization under this
7 subsection unless it first submits to the joint labor,
8 health and human services interim committee a statewide
9 emergency medical service response time model demonstrating
10 no increase in emergency response times, staffing
11 projections including volunteer impacts, inter-county
12 governance and authority agreements and full cost estimates
13 of regionalization, including long-term maintenance costs;

14
15 (ii) Eligibility for incentive payments under
16 this subsection shall be limited to joint applications
17 submitted by two (2) or more ground ambulance providers
18 serving a contiguous rural or frontier region;

19
20 (iii) Joint applicants shall submit a
21 regionalization plan to the department demonstrating
22 maximization of revenue sources, integration with public
23 safety answering points, use of interoperable equipment and

1 technology, reduction of administrative overhead and
2 commitment to community emergency medical services and
3 tele-crisis stabilization services;

4
5 (iv) Incentive payments under this subsection
6 shall include ongoing payments to offset fixed readiness
7 costs and grants for ambulances, interoperability equipment
8 and implementation of regional medical dispatch.

9
10 (d) Twenty-one and six-tenths percent (21.6%) of the
11 annual required distribution for workforce education
12 individual support. The department shall administer awards
13 to individuals for health care workforce education and
14 training costs, including tuition, fees and stipends,
15 subject to the following:

16
17 (i) Awards under this subsection shall be used to
18 pay allowable education and training costs for eligible
19 applicants pursuing credentials in one (1) or more of the
20 following fields:

1 (A) Nursing, including certified nursing
2 assistant, licensed practical nurse, registered nurse and
3 advanced practice registered nurse programs;

4

5 (B) Emergency medical services, including
6 emergency department technician, emergency medical
7 responder, emergency medical technician and paramedic
8 programs;

9

10 (C) Clinical behavioral health professions;

11

12 (D) Physician education, including
13 undergraduate medical education.

14

15 (ii) As a condition of receiving an award under
16 this subsection, an applicant shall agree to provide health
17 care services in Wyoming for a minimum of five (5) years
18 following completion of the approved program, under terms
19 and conditions established by the department;

20

21 (iii) An applicant who fails to satisfy the
22 service obligation required under paragraph (ii) of this
23 subsection shall be required to repay to the department all

1 or a prorated portion of the award, together with any
2 applicable interest, as determined by rule of the
3 department.

4
5 (d) Ten and eight-tenths percent (10.8%) of the
6 annual required distribution for physician post-graduate
7 medical education (GME) individual support. The department
8 shall administer awards to individuals for physician
9 graduate medical education, including residency and
10 fellowship training costs, subject to the following:

11
12 (i) In awarding funds under this subsection, the
13 department shall prioritize programs and applicants that
14 increase the supply of family medicine physicians and that
15 provide training in obstetrics or other high-demand
16 specialties, as determined by the department;

17
18 (ii) As a condition of receiving an award under
19 this subsection, a physician completing a supported
20 residency or fellowship shall agree to provide health care
21 services for a minimum of five (5) years in one (1) or more
22 underserved counties within the state, under terms and
23 conditions established by rule of the department.

1

2 **35-25-707. Wyoming rural health transformation**
3 **program; time-limited initiatives; sunset.**

4

5 (a) Subject to the availability of rural health
6 transformation funds, the department is authorized to
7 expend funds for time-limited initiatives in amounts that
8 seek to achieve the following percentage targets:

9

10 (i) Thirty-six and four-tenths percent (36.4%)
11 of amounts available for time-limited initiatives for
12 integrated primary care. Expenditures under this paragraph
13 shall be for competitive grants to expand the number and
14 geographical reach of federally qualified health centers in
15 the state through conversion of existing facilities and
16 practices for the integration of primary care delivery
17 models that coordinate primary medical care with behavioral
18 health services, obstetric and gynecological care, dental
19 services and preventive health services;

20

21 (ii) Fifteen and one-tenths percent (15.1%) of
22 amounts available for time-limited initiatives for a
23 technology adoption challenge program. Expenditures under

1 this paragraph shall be for competitive grants for health
2 care technology procurement. Grants under this paragraph
3 shall be awarded only to joint applications submitted by
4 two (2) or more health care providers and shall be limited
5 to projects that improve care delivery closer to home,
6 enhance interoperability and coordination among providers
7 and reduce administrative activity;

8
9 (iii) Three percent (3%) of amounts available
10 for time-limited initiatives for exercise and diet
11 promotion. Expenditures under this paragraph shall be for
12 competitive grants to Wyoming-based entities to promote
13 physical activity and healthy nutrition. Projects that
14 demonstrate measurable increases in participation in
15 exercise, outdoor recreation or evidence-based nutrition
16 practices shall be prioritized for the grants under this
17 paragraph;

18
19 (iv) Eight and two-tenths percent (8.2%) of
20 amounts available for time-limited initiatives for a
21 statewide tele-specialist platform. Expenditures under
22 this paragraph shall be for the procurement and operation
23 of a centralized tele-specialty platform to deliver

1 physician-level specialty consultations to health care
2 providers statewide;

3

4 (v) Eight and two-tenths percent (8.2%) of
5 amounts available for time-limited initiatives for
6 workforce education startup costs. Expenditures under this
7 paragraph shall be for competitive grants to support health
8 care workforce training programs operated by educational
9 institutions within the state. Grants under this paragraph
10 shall be awarded to recipients that commit to establishing
11 and maintaining a specified number of training positions
12 for nurses, emergency medical service personnel, physicians
13 and clinical behavioral health providers;

14

15 (vi) Eight and two-tenths percent (8.2%) of
16 amounts available for time-limited initiatives for care
17 coordination. Expenditures under this paragraph shall be
18 for competitive grants to hospitals, health care providers
19 and rural health facilities to propose clinically
20 integrated care coordination models for one (1) or more
21 counties to improve the management of chronic disease among
22 individuals who are dually eligible for Medicare and
23 Medicaid and who are identified as high risk. Funding

1 awarded under this paragraph may include capped start-up
2 costs, a per-member, per-month care coordination payment
3 for assigned individuals and performance-based payments
4 tied to demonstrated cost savings;

5
6 (vii) Four and nine-tenths percent (4.9%) of
7 amounts available for time-limited initiatives for
8 centralized billing capacity. Expenditures under this
9 paragraph shall be for centralized billing and revenue
10 collection services for voluntarily participating emergency
11 medical services agencies. This centralized billing
12 capacity model may be expanded to other health care
13 providers if the model demonstrates effectiveness and
14 financial sustainability;

15
16 (viii) Two percent (2.0%) of amounts available
17 for time-limited initiatives for non-emergency
18 transportation coordination platform. Expenditures under
19 this paragraph shall be for the procurement and operation
20 of a centralized non-emergency medical transportation
21 coordination platform to improve access to health care
22 appointments for seniors, individuals with disabilities and
23 other eligible populations. The platform shall facilitate

1 the scheduling, coordination and billing of non-emergency
2 transportation;

3
4 (ix) Two and six-tenths percent (2.6%) of amounts
5 available for time-limited initiatives for administration.
6 Expenditures under this paragraph include any
7 administrative costs necessary to implement the rural
8 health transformation program, including expenses of the
9 advisory committee;

10
11 (x) Four and six-tenths percent (4.6%) identified
12 in the Wyoming rural health transformation plan for any
13 other initiative not authorized in this subsection shall be
14 redistributed for expenditure on other initiatives
15 authorized under this subsection.

16
17 (b) The authority to administer the time-limited
18 initiatives and any funds for the initiatives under
19 subsection (a) of this section shall terminate upon
20 exhaustion of all rural health transformation funds
21 appropriated or otherwise made available for expenditure
22 for the initiatives specified in subsection (a) of this
23 section.

1

2 **35-25-708. Prohibited uses; legislative notice;**
3 **reporting.**

4

5 (a) In addition to any other limitations imposed by
6 state or federal law, no expenditure shall be made for
7 abortions or for specified sex-trait modification
8 procedures, as defined in 45 C.F.R. § 156.400.

9

10 (b) Each single grant, award, or expenditure in excess
11 of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00) shall
12 require written approval of the advisory committee and
13 notice to the legislature not less than ten (10) days prior
14 to authorization of the grant, award or expenditure. For
15 authorized perpetuity fund expenditures, the notice shall
16 identify the proposed recipient, amount, purpose and
17 material terms of the grant, award, or expenditure. For
18 time-limited initiatives, legislative notice shall be
19 satisfied by the department providing written notice to the
20 joint appropriations committee in a manner similar to the
21 process specified in W.S. 9-2-1005(b)(ii) and 9-2-1013(b);

22

1 (c) The state budget department, in consultation with
2 the department, shall develop and maintain an electronic
3 reporting portal to provide current information on
4 expenditures and program activity of rural health
5 transformation funds.

6
7 **35-25-709. Recipient reporting; performance and**
8 **accountability agreements; repayment.**

9
10 (a) The department shall require each recipient of
11 funds under the Wyoming rural health transformation program
12 to submit reports sufficient to demonstrate compliance with
13 applicable state and federal requirements. At a minimum,
14 required reporting shall include detailed expenditure
15 information, performance measures and documentation
16 demonstrating the authorized use of funds.

17
18 (b) The department shall require each recipient
19 hospital, clinic, emergency medical service provider or
20 other health care-related organization receiving funds
21 under the program to enter into a written performance and
22 accountability agreement with the department. At a minimum,
23 the agreement shall include requirements relating to:

1

2 (i) Operating margin targets;

3

4 (ii) Days cash on hand;

5

6 (iii) Liquidity ratio benchmarks;

7

8 (iv) The adoption of modernization and efficiency
9 practices, including improved revenue cycle management
10 systems;

11

12 (v) The development and implementation of a plan
13 to reduce unprofitable, duplicative or nonessential service
14 lines;

15

16 (vi) Participation in shared services, regional
17 collaboration or other cost-containment arrangements where
18 feasible; and

19

20 (vii) Submission of independent financial audits
21 to the department for annual collection and transmittal to
22 the joint appropriations committee.

23

1 (c) A recipient of funds under the Wyoming rural
2 health transformation program that fails to comply with a
3 requirement, condition or obligation imposed by statute,
4 rule or performance and accountability agreement, or that
5 fails to meet required performance targets, misuses funds,
6 expends funds for purposes not authorized under state or
7 federal law or fails or refuses to implement required
8 operational reforms, shall repay to the department all or a
9 prorated portion of the funds received, as determined by
10 the department. The department may recover amounts owed
11 under this subsection by any means authorized by law.

12

13 **35-25-710. Health care providers; telehealth**
14 **services.**

15

16 (a) For purposes consistent with the policy of the
17 Wyoming rural health transformation plan, a health care
18 provider, as defined in W.S. 26-55-102(a)(xii), with a
19 valid, unencumbered license and who is in good standing to
20 practice in any other state, United States territory or the
21 District of Columbia shall be permitted to conduct the
22 practice of medicine by electronic communication or other
23 means by providing services to a patient physically present

1 in Wyoming without first obtaining a license under Wyoming
2 statutes. In addition:

3

4 (i) The health care provider who is not licensed
5 in Wyoming shall be physically present outside Wyoming in
6 order to conduct telehealth services under this section;

7

8 (ii) The appropriate licensing board shall be
9 notified before the health care provider begins providing
10 telehealth services under this section unless a patient has
11 an established relationship with the health care provider
12 before July 1, 2026.

13

14 **Section 2.** W.S. 33-9-103, 33-10-105(a), 33-15-108(a)
15 and (h), 33-15-114(a) by creating a new paragraph (xiii),
16 33-21-120(a)(i)(D), 33-21-145(a)(i), 33-21-151(a)(i) and
17 (iii), 33-23-101(a)(iv), 33-23-103(a),
18 33-25-101(a)(i)(intro), (ii) and (vi), 33-25-102(a)(intro)
19 and (f) by creating a new paragraph (viii), 33-25-116(a)(i)
20 and (iii), 33-26-301(a), 33-26-410(a), 33-26-504(a),
21 33-27-113(a)(xi) and (xii), 33-27-114 by creating a new
22 subsection (j), 33-27-119(b), 33-33-103(b), 33-33-202(b),
23 33-38-102(a)(x) through (xii) and (xvi), 33-38-103 by

1 creating a new subsection (g), 33-40-102(a)(ii) and (iv),
2 33-40-103(a), 33-40-115(b) and (d)(ii), 33-46-105(a),
3 33-49-102(a)(iii), 33-49-106(a)(x) and 33-49-107(a)(intro)
4 and (e) are amended to read:

5
6 **33-9-103. License required to practice.**

7
8 It is unlawful for a person to profess to be a podiatrist,
9 to practice or assume the duties incident to podiatry or to
10 advertise in any form or hold himself out to the public as
11 a podiatrist, or in a sign or advertisement to use the word
12 "podiatrist", "foot correctionist", "foot expert", "foot
13 specialist", "chiropodist" or any other term or designation
14 indicating to the public that he is holding himself out as
15 a podiatrist or foot correctionist in any manner, without
16 first obtaining from the board a license authorizing the
17 practice of podiatry in this state under this act or as
18 provided by W.S. 35-25-710.

19
20 **33-10-105. License required.**

21
22 (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to practice
23 chiropractic in this state without first obtaining a

1 license, as provided for in this act, or as provided by
2 W.S. 35-25-710.

3

4 **33-15-108. Licensing; qualifications; examinations;**
5 **fees.**

6

7 (a) Any person who has a background that does not
8 evidence conduct adverse to the practice of dentistry or to
9 the ability to practice dentistry, who has graduated and
10 attained the degree of doctor of dental surgery or doctor
11 of dental medicine from a college or university in the
12 United States or Canada accredited by the commission on
13 dental accreditation of the American Dental Association,
14 may apply to the board to have the applicant's
15 qualifications considered for licensure to practice
16 dentistry, except as provided by W.S. 35-25-710. The
17 applicant shall pass a written, clinical and state
18 examination that follows national standards as determined
19 by rule of the board.

20

21 (h) The board may make and prescribe rules and
22 regulations for the licensure and practice of dentistry in
23 the state of Wyoming, including rules and regulations

1 pertaining to telehealth services under W.S. 35-25-710, not
2 inconsistent with this act. For purposes of this
3 subsection, "practice of dentistry" includes the work of
4 dental hygienists, dental auxiliaries, dental technicians
5 and dental laboratories.

6
7 **33-15-114. Persons deemed to be practicing dentistry;**
8 **work authorizations from licensed dentist.**

9
10 (a) Except as provided by paragraph (xii) of this
11 subsection, any person is deemed to be practicing dentistry
12 within the meaning of this act:

13
14 (xiii) Who provides telehealth services under
15 W.S. 35-25-710.

16
17 **33-21-120. Definitions.**

18
19 (a) As used in this act:

20
21 (i) "Advanced practice registered nurse (APRN)"
22 means a nurse who:

1 (D) Has completed an advanced program of
2 study in a specialty area in an accredited nursing program,
3 has taken and passed a national certification examination
4 in the same area and has been granted licensure by the
5 board to practice as an APRN or is providing telehealth
6 services under W.S. 35-25-710.

7
8 **33-21-145. Violations; penalties.**

9
10 (a) No person shall:

11
12 (i) Engage in the practice of nursing or nurse
13 assisting as defined in this act without a valid, current
14 license, certificate or temporary permit, except as
15 otherwise permitted under this act, under W.S. 35-25-710 or
16 the Nurse Licensure Compact or the Advanced Practice
17 Registered Nurse Compact;

18
19 **33-21-151. Injunctive relief; grounds.**

20
21 (a) The board may petition in its own name for an
22 injunction to a proper court of competent jurisdiction to
23 enjoin:

1

2 (i) Any person from practicing nursing or nurse
3 assisting, within the meaning of this act, without a valid
4 license, certificate or temporary permit, unless practicing
5 under W.S. 35-25-710 or so exempted under W.S. 33-21-154;

6

7 (iii) Any person, firm, corporation, institution
8 or association from employing any individual to practice
9 nursing or nurse assisting who is not licensed or certified
10 under this act, providing telehealth services under W.S.
11 35-25-710 or exempted under W.S. 33-21-154.

12

13 **33-23-101. Definitions; authorized scope of practice;**
14 **prohibited procedures; exceptions.**

15

16 (a) As used in this act:

17

18 (iv) "Optometrist" or "doctor of optometry"
19 means a person licensed by the board under this act or
20 providing telehealth services under W.S. 35-25-710;

21

22 **33-23-103. License required; civil suit; damages.**

23

1 (a) It is unlawful for any person in the state of
2 Wyoming to practice or attempt to practice optometry or to
3 advertise, or hold himself out as qualified to fit or
4 adjust any lenses or lens in any manner or form as an aid
5 to human eyesight, without first obtaining a license to
6 practice optometry and excepting telehealth services under
7 W.S. 35-25-710.

8
9 **33-25-101. Definitions.**

10
11 (a) As used in this act:

12
13 (i) "Physical therapy" or "physiotherapy" means
14 the care and services provided by or under the direction
15 and supervision of a physical therapist or physiotherapist
16 who is licensed pursuant to this act or providing
17 telehealth services under W.S. 35-25-710. The practice of
18 physical therapy includes:

19
20 (ii) "Physical therapist" or "physiotherapist"
21 means a person who is licensed to practice physical therapy
22 pursuant to this act or who is providing telehealth
23 services under W.S. 35-25-710;

1

2 (vi) "Physical therapy services" means the care
3 and services provided by a licensed physical therapist or a
4 certified physical therapist assistant pursuant to this act
5 or as telehealth services under W.S. 35-25-710;

6

7 **33-25-102. Practice of physical therapy; license or**
8 **certificate required; exceptions; false representations.**

9

10 (a) No individual shall engage in the practice of
11 physical therapy services nor hold himself out as being
12 able to practice physical therapy in the state of Wyoming
13 unless he is practicing under W.S. 35-25-710 or is licensed
14 or certified in accordance with the provisions of this act
15 and such license or certificate is in good standing and has
16 not been suspended or revoked, except nothing in this act
17 shall:

18

19 (f) The following persons are exempt from the
20 licensure and certification requirements of this act:

21

22 (viii) Persons practicing under W.S. 35-25-710.

23

1 **33-25-116. Injunctive relief; grounds.**

2

3 (a) The board may petition in its own name for an
4 injunction to an appropriate court to enjoin:

5

6 (i) Any person violating W.S. 33-25-102(a),
7 unless specifically exempt from licensure or certification
8 pursuant to W.S. 33-25-102(f) or the person is providing
9 telehealth services under W.S. 35-25-710;

10

11 (iii) Any person, firm, corporation,
12 institution, association, business or other entity from
13 employing any individual to practice physical therapy who
14 is not licensed or certified as required by this act or who
15 is providing telehealth services under W.S. 35-25-710.

16

17 **33-26-301. License required.**

18

19 (a) No person shall practice medicine in this state
20 without a license granted by the board, as provided by W.S.
21 35-25-710 or as otherwise provided by law.

22

23 **33-26-410. Effect of violation.**

1

2 (a) Any person engaged in the practice of medicine or
3 aiding and abetting another in the practice of medicine
4 without a license granted by the board or the person is
5 providing telehealth services under W.S. 35-25-710 is
6 guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be
7 punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars
8 (\$1,000.00) or by imprisonment in the county jail for not
9 more than one (1) year, or both. Each violation constitutes
10 a separate offense for which the penalty in this subsection
11 may be assessed.

12

13 **33-26-504. License required; application;**
14 **qualifications; consideration of applications; exception**
15 **for telehealth services.**

16

17 (a) Except as provided by W.S. 35-25-710, no person
18 shall practice as a physician assistant or represent
19 oneself as a physician assistant without a license granted
20 by the board.

21

22 **33-27-113. Definitions.**

23

1 (a) As used in this act:

2

3 (xi) "Licensed assistant behavior analyst" means
4 a person licensed under this act for the practice of
5 behavior analysis and who is supervised in accordance with
6 W.S. 33-27-124(c) or who is providing telehealth services
7 under W.S. 35-25-710;

8

9 (xii) "Licensed behavior analyst" means a person
10 licensed under this act for the practice of behavior
11 analysis or who is providing telehealth services under W.S.
12 35-25-710;

13

14 **33-27-114. Exemptions.**

15

16 (j) Nothing in this act shall prevent a person from
17 practicing psychology or behavior analysis under W.S. 35-
18 25-710.

19

20 **33-27-119. Practice without license.**

21

22 (b) Unless exempt under W.S. 35-25-710, 33-27-114 or
23 33-27-125, any person who represents himself as a

1 psychologist and who engages in the practice of psychology
2 or represents himself as a behavior analyst or assistant
3 behavior analyst and who engages in the practice of
4 behavior analysis in violation of this act, is guilty of a
5 misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than seven
6 hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00), imprisonment for not more
7 than six (6) months, or both. Each violation shall
8 constitute a separate offense.

9
10 **33-33-103. Persons and practices affected.**

11
12 (b) No person shall practice or represent himself as
13 a speech-language pathologist or audiologist unless
14 licensed pursuant to this act or if providing telehealth
15 services pursuant to W.S. 35-25-710.

16
17 **33-33-202. Functions of the board.**

18
19 (b) The board shall adopt rules and regulations to
20 implement and enforce the provisions of this act and W.S.
21 35-25-710.

22
23 **33-38-102. Definitions.**

1

2 (a) As used in this act:

3

4 (x) "Certified addictions practitioner (CAP)"
5 means a person certified under this act to practice
6 addictions treatment, prevention, intervention, diagnosis,
7 referral and follow up under the supervision of a qualified
8 clinical supervisor licensed in the state of Wyoming or who
9 is providing telehealth services under W.S. 35-25-710;

10

11 (xi) "Certified social worker (CSW)" means a
12 person certified under this act to perform social work
13 treatment, prevention, intervention, case management,
14 referral and follow up with individuals diagnosed with
15 mental illnesses or mental disorders under the supervision
16 of a qualified clinical supervisor licensed in the state of
17 Wyoming or a person who is providing telehealth services
18 under W.S. 35-25-710;

19

20 (xii) "Certified mental health worker (CMHW)"
21 means a person certified under this act to perform the
22 application of human services or psychological theory and
23 methods to the assessment, treatment or prevention of

1 psychosocial dysfunction, disability or impairment,
2 including emotional or mental disorders, under the
3 supervision of a qualified clinical supervisor licensed in
4 the state of Wyoming or a person who is providing
5 telehealth services under W.S. 35-25-710. The practice of a
6 CMHW shall not include assigning a diagnosis or acting as a
7 primary treatment provider;

8
9 (xvi) "Certified addictions practitioner
10 assistant" means a person certified under this act to
11 assist in the practice of addictions treatment, prevention,
12 intervention, referral and followup under the supervision
13 of a qualified clinical supervisor licensed in the state of
14 Wyoming or a person providing telehealth services under
15 W.S. 35-25-710;

16
17 **33-38-103. Exemptions.**

18
19 (g) Nothing in this act shall prevent a qualified
20 person from providing telehealth services under W.S. 35-25-
21 710.

22
23 **33-40-102. Definitions.**

1

2 (a) As used in this act:

3

4 (ii) "Occupational therapy assistant" or "OTA"
5 means a person licensed under this act to assist in the
6 practice of occupational therapy and who works under the
7 supervision of an occupational therapist to perform tasks
8 requiring occupational therapy professional knowledge or
9 judgment or a person providing telehealth services under
10 W.S. 35-25-710;

11

12 (iv) "Occupational therapist" means a person
13 licensed to practice occupational therapy under this act or
14 a person providing telehealth services under W.S. 35-25-
15 710;

16

17 **33-40-103. License required.**

18

19 (a) No person shall hold himself out as an
20 occupational therapist, an occupational therapy assistant
21 or as being able to practice occupational therapy in
22 Wyoming unless he is licensed under this act, providing
23 telehealth services under W.S. 35-25-710 or is otherwise

1 authorized under the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact
2 under W.S. 33-40-202 through 33-40-216. An unlicensed
3 person holding himself out as an occupational therapist or
4 occupational therapist assistant by using additional or
5 modifying words in his title, printed materials,
6 advertisements or otherwise shall be deemed to be holding
7 himself out as an occupational therapist or occupational
8 therapist assistant.

9
10 **33-40-115. Board of occupational therapy practice;**
11 **powers and duties.**

12
13 (b) The board shall establish rules and regulations
14 according to the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act to
15 carry out the purpose of this act and W.S. 35-25-710,
16 including establishing rules for professional conduct, for
17 professional licensure and to establish ethical standards
18 of practice for persons licensed to practice occupational
19 therapy in Wyoming.

20
21 (d) The board may, with the approval and assistance
22 of the attorney general, petition the district court in the
23 name of the state of Wyoming to enjoin:

1

2 (ii) Any person or other entity from advertising
3 or claiming to provide occupational therapy services in
4 this state when the services are not or will not be
5 provided by a person licensed under this act, are
6 telehealth services under W.S. 35-25-710 or ~~is~~ are
7 otherwise authorized under the Occupational Therapy
8 Licensure Compact under W.S. 33-40-202 through 33-40-216.

9

10 **33-46-105. Prohibited acts and exceptions.**

11

12 (a) Unless licensed pursuant to this act or the
13 practice is authorized under W.S. 35-25-710, no person
14 shall practice midwifery or hold himself out to be a
15 midwife, a licensed midwife or a certified professional
16 midwife except that a certified nurse midwife may hold
17 himself out to be a midwife.

18

19 **33-49-102. Definitions.**

20

21 (a) As used in this chapter:

22

1 (iii) "Acupuncturist" means any person to whom a
2 license to practice acupuncture in this state has been
3 issued under this chapter or who is providing telehealth
4 services under W.S. 35-25-710;

5
6 **33-49-106. Board responsibilities and duties.**

7
8 (a) The board shall:

9
10 (x) Promulgate rules and regulations as
11 necessary to carry out this chapter and W.S. 35-25-710.

12
13 **33-49-107. Licensure required; components;**
14 **exemptions; other licensed health care professionals.**

15
16 (a) Beginning January 1, 2018, unless the person is
17 licensed to practice acupuncture in compliance with this
18 chapter and the rules and regulations adopted pursuant
19 thereto or is providing telehealth services under W.S. 35-
20 25-710, no person shall:

21
22 (e) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to
23 prohibit or restrict any other licensed health care

1 provider in this state from practicing acupuncture within
2 their statutory scope of practice. However, no person may
3 represent themselves as an acupuncturist in any manner
4 unless licensed in accordance with this chapter or
5 providing telehealth services under W.S. 35-25-710.
6

7 **Section 3.** The department of health, state board of
8 nursing, the state board of medicine, the state board of
9 psychology, the state board of registration in podiatry,
10 the board of chiropractic examiners, the board of physical
11 therapy, the mental health professionals licensing board,
12 the board of examiners for speech-language pathology and
13 audiology, the board of dental examiners, the board of
14 examiners of optometry, the board of occupational therapy,
15 the board of acupuncture and the board of midwifery shall
16 adopt all rules necessary to implement this act.
17

18 **Section 4.** During the 2026 interim, the joint labor,
19 health and social services interim committee shall study
20 policy issues identified in the Wyoming rural health
21 transformation plan, as defined in this act, and may
22 prepare any legislation it deems necessary for
23 consideration by the legislature.

1

2 **Section 5.**

3

4 (a) Federal funds awarded to the state of Wyoming
5 under the federal rural health transformation program
6 established by section 71401 of the federal One Big
7 Beautiful Bill Act, P.L. 119-21, are appropriated to the
8 department of health, subject to the following:

9

10 (i) In federal fiscal year 2026, eighty percent
11 (80%) of funds awarded for that fiscal year shall be
12 deposited into the Wyoming rural health transformation
13 perpetuity fund created by this act. Thereafter, in each
14 subsequent federal fiscal year, sixty-nine and five-tenths
15 percent (69.5%) of funds awarded in that fiscal year shall
16 be deposited into the Wyoming rural health transformation
17 perpetuity fund, created by this act;

18

19 (ii) In federal fiscal year 2026, twenty percent
20 (20%) of funds awarded are appropriated and shall be
21 expended for the time-limited initiatives authorized by
22 this act. Thereafter, thirty and five-tenths percent
23 (30.5%) of the funds awarded in each subsequent year are

1 appropriated and shall be expended for the time-limited
2 programs authorized in this act.

3

4 **Section 6.**

5

6 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this
7 section, this act is effective immediately upon completion
8 of all acts necessary for a bill to become law as provided
9 by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming Constitution.

10

11 (b) Section 2 of this act is effective July 1, 2026.

12

13 (END)