

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 access, cost and quality of health care for Wyoming  
7 citizens.

8

9           (b) The commission shall consist of fifteen (15)  
10 members appointed by the governor including:

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

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

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

20

21           (iv) The director of the department of workforce  
22 services, or designee;

23

1           (v) The dean of the University of Wyoming  
2 college of health sciences, or designee;

3

4           (vi) The Wyoming insurance commissioner, or  
5 designee;

6

7           (vii) Nine (9) residents of the state appointed  
8 at large.

9

10          (c) Appointed commission members shall serve until  
11 completion of duties delegated to the commission under this  
12 article. If a vacancy occurs on the commission, the  
13 governor shall appoint a new member to fill the vacancy for  
14 the remainder of the term. The governor may remove members  
15 as provided in W.S. 9-1-202. Commission members who are not  
16 state employees shall receive a salary equal to the per  
17 diem paid members of the Wyoming legislature under W.S.  
18 28-5-101 for each day of actual service and when engaged in  
19 necessary travel plus necessary expenses.

20

21          (d) The governor shall designate one (1) member to  
22 serve as chairman.

23

1           (e) The commission shall meet not less than monthly  
2 at the call of the chairman. Eight (8) members shall  
3 constitute a quorum.

4  
5           (f) As used in this article, "commission" means the  
6 Wyoming health care commission created by this section.

7

8           **9-2-2802. Advisory board; membership; salary;**  
9 **termination.**

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

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15                   (i) A physician licensed in Wyoming;

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17                   (ii) A registered nurse licensed in Wyoming;

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19                   (iii) A pharmacist licensed in Wyoming;

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21                   (iv) A representative of a hospital;

22

23                   (v) A provider of long term care services;

24

1 (vi) An attorney licensed in Wyoming;

2

3 (vii) A representative for a health care insurer  
4 operating in Wyoming;

5

6 (viii) An uninsured resident of the state;

7

8 (ix) A representative for a pharmaceutical  
9 manufacturer;

10

11 (x) A representative involved in K-12 school  
12 education;

13

14 (xi) Representatives for large and small  
15 employers;

16

17 (xii) A representative for senior citizens; and

18

19 (xiii) Other persons appointed by the governor  
20 in consultation with the commission.

21

22 (b) Advisory board members shall serve until  
23 completion of duties delegated to the commission under this  
24 article. If a vacancy occurs on the board, the governor

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

7

8 (c) Members of the advisory board shall meet at the  
9 call of the chairman of the commission. Members of the  
10 board may be appointed to serve as subcommittees of the  
11 commission, rather than as an advisory board to the  
12 commission.

13

14 **9-2-2803. Director; appointment; duties; additional**  
15 **staff; qualifications.**

16

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

20

21 (i) Serve as administrative head of the  
22 commission;

23

1           (ii) Perform duties prescribed by the commission  
2 and assist the commission in carrying out the duties  
3 imposed under this article; and  
4

5           (iii) Not be subject to W.S. 9-2-1019, 9-2-1022  
6 and 9-3-101 through 9-3-104 but shall receive compensation  
7 and be reimbursed for travel and other necessary expenses  
8 as prescribed by the commission and approved by the  
9 governor.  
10

11           (b) Subject to approval by the commission, the  
12 director may employ one (1) staff member to assist the  
13 commission in performing its duties. The staff member shall  
14 possess those administrative, technical, professional and  
15 clerical qualifications determined necessary by the  
16 commission. All staff to the commission shall serve at the  
17 pleasure of the director.  
18

19           (c) The commission may contract for services with  
20 nationally recognized health care systems experts as  
21 necessary to assist in the technical aspects of data  
22 development, review and analysis.  
23

1           **9-2-2804. Health care commission duties; report; open**  
2 **meetings; attorney general to represent; rulemaking.**

3

4           (a) The commission shall develop strategies to  
5 improve health care and reduce health care and medical  
6 liability insurance costs for Wyoming citizens by holding  
7 public meetings throughout the state, hearing from experts  
8 and other interested parties, studying and researching  
9 other states' actions on health care and medical liability  
10 insurance reform, studying and utilizing Wyoming data,  
11 considering past efforts, including, but not limited to,  
12 the report issued by the Wyoming health reform commission  
13 on December 1, 1994, and future possibilities that can be  
14 useful in decision making by addressing the following:

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16           (i) Access to an affordable, effective and  
17 quality health care system for Wyoming, including rural  
18 areas of the state;

19

20           (ii) Access to affordable health insurance;

21

22           (iii) Issues of wellness and individual  
23 responsibility for personal health;

24

1 (iv) Disease prevention and management;

2

3 (v) Medical liability insurance reform;

4

5 (vi) Workforce shortages among medical provider  
6 professions;

7

8 (vii) Cost shifting by medical providers that  
9 occurs as a result of low reimbursement from public and  
10 other programs;

11

12 (viii) The aging population in Wyoming and the  
13 long term care services that will be needed by that  
14 population;

15

16 (ix) Other issues as deemed appropriate by the  
17 governor and the commission.

18

19 (b) The commission shall consult and coordinate  
20 with the state planning grant task force within the  
21 department of health on issues relating to health  
22 insurance.

23

1           (c) The commission shall submit to the joint labor,  
2 health and social services interim committee and the  
3 governor a preliminary report on its findings no later than  
4 June 30, 2004, and a final report with its recommendations  
5 for legislative changes by December 1, 2004.

6

7           (d) Public hearings of the commission shall be held  
8 in accordance with W.S. 16-4-401 et seq. The attorney  
9 general shall be the legal adviser of the commission.

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11           **9-2-2805. Termination of article.**

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13 W.S. 9-2-2801 through 9-2-2804 are repealed effective June  
14 30, 2005.

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

23

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)