

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0261

Animal welfare task force.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Berger, Samuelson and
Zwonitzer, Dn. and Senator(s) Geis

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to animals; establishing a task force to
2 study animal abuse and animal welfare in Wyoming; providing
3 for membership; providing study requirements; requiring a
4 report; providing an appropriation; and providing for an
5 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 a legislative-executive task
12 force on animal welfare. The task force shall study issues
13 of animal cruelty, neglect and abuse and develop a
14 comprehensive plan to ensure that the proper care of
15 animals is occurring, and will continue to occur, in
16 Wyoming.

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2 (b) The task force shall consist of eleven (11)
3 members appointed by April 1, 2007, as follows:

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5 (i) One (1) person designated to represent the
6 governor's office;

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8 (ii) One (1) member of the Wyoming senate,
9 appointed by the president of the senate, who shall be
10 cochairman of the task force;

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12 (iii) One (1) member of the Wyoming house of
13 representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house, who
14 shall be cochairman of the task force;

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16 (iv) The state veterinarian or his designee;

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18 (v) The following, selected jointly by the
19 cochairmen of the task force:

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21 (A) One (1) member certified as a peace
22 officer employed by the Wyoming livestock board;

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1 (B) One (1) member representing the Wyoming
2 association of sheriffs and chiefs of police;

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4 (C) One (1) member representing the Wyoming
5 association of animal control officers;

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7 (D) One (1) member representing the Wyoming
8 veterinary medicine association;

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10 (E) One (1) member representing the Wyoming
11 department of agriculture;

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13 (F) One (1) member representing the animal
14 agriculture industry; and

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16 (G) One (1) member representing the general
17 populace of Wyoming with an interest in animal welfare.

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19 (c) The task force shall:

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21 (i) Meet no less than four (4) times to solicit
22 input and comments from the citizens of Wyoming;

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1 (ii) Conduct a comprehensive analysis of the
2 current animal cruelty and welfare laws in Wyoming;

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4 (iii) Conduct a comprehensive analysis of animal
5 cruelty, neglect and abuse in the pet and animal companion
6 industry in Wyoming;

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8 (iv) Recommend uniform standards of training and
9 certification for the detection, investigation and response
10 to animal cruelty, neglect and abuse;

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12 (v) Evaluate the potential threat to human
13 health resulting from the illegal importation of animals;

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15 (vi) If necessary to achieve the purposes of
16 this act, recommend changes to the current statutes to
17 ensure minimum standards for the humane care and treatment
18 of animals;

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20 (vii) Report its findings and recommendations
21 and, if necessary to achieve the purposes of this act,
22 submit draft legislation for consideration to the joint
23 agriculture, public lands and water resources interim
24 committee.

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2 (d) The task force shall be staffed by the governor's
3 office. The task force may contract for administrative and
4 research services to aid in preparation of the task force
5 report. The governor's office shall convene the task force
6 no later than May 1, 2007.

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8 (e) The task force shall exist until December 31,
9 2007. Members of the task force who are not legislators
10 shall not receive a salary but shall receive reimbursement
11 for necessary travel and per diem expenses in the manner and
12 amount provided for state employees under W.S. 9-3-102 and
13 9-3-103. Members of the task force who are legislators
14 shall be paid salary, per diem and travel expenses as
15 provided in W.S. 28-5-101 for their official duties as
16 members of the task force.

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18 **Section 2.** For purposes of this act for the fiscal
19 biennium ending June 30, 2008, there is appropriated fifty
20 thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) from the general fund. Of
21 this amount, ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) is
22 appropriated to the legislative service office to fund the
23 salaries, per diem and travel expenses of the state
24 legislative members of the task force pursuant to section 1
25 of this act. The remainder is appropriated to the

1 governor's office to fund the meetings and activities of the
2 task force and to contract with appropriate professionals as
3 necessary to complete the duties assigned to the task force
4 in section 1 of this act.

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

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11

(END)