

## HOUSE BILL NO. HB0331

Health care system reform task force.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Jorgensen, Hammons, Lubnau  
and Philp and Senator(s) Larson and Massie

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to healthcare; creating a health care  
2 system reform task force; requiring a report; providing for  
3 an appropriation; and providing for an effective date.

4

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

6

7 **Section 1.**

8

9 (a) There is created a health care system reform task  
10 force consisting of eleven (11) members. The task force  
11 members shall select a chairman and a vice-chairman.

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13 (b) Two (2) members of the task force shall be  
14 members of house of representatives appointed by the  
15 speaker of the house. Two (2) members of the task force

1 shall be members of senate appointed by the president of  
2 the senate.

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4 (c) Seven (7) members of the task force shall be  
5 appointed by the governor as follows:

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7 (i) Two (2) members from the department of  
8 health;

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10 (ii) Two (2) members from the Wyoming health  
11 care commission; and

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13 (iii) Three (3) members from the public with  
14 experience with the healthcare system.

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16 (d) The task force shall meet at the call of the  
17 chairman to review works in progress, recommendations and  
18 proposals of the healthcare commission to promote access to  
19 and affordability of health care and health insurance.  
20 Potential elements promoting access and affordability to be  
21 forwarded to the task force for review may include, but are  
22 not exclusively limited to:

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1           (i) Expansion of publicly funded programs to  
2 reduce the number of uninsured;

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4           (ii) Simplified enrollment in Medicaid to  
5 encourage enrollment by persons who are eligible but not  
6 yet enrolled;

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8           (iii) Consideration of state participation in a  
9 small business purchasing pool or in a basic benefit  
10 insurance plan for individuals not eligible for existing  
11 publicly funded programs;

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13           (iv) Modifications to the state high-risk  
14 insurance pool to expand coverage;

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16           (v) Other options to expand preventative care,  
17 chronic case management and other methods which may include  
18 strengthening of public health offices and cooperation with  
19 other state-funded or nonprofit health organizations to  
20 expand preventative care services.

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22           (e) As part of its duties, the task force shall:

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1           (i) Review reports and proposals from the  
2 commission on health care system reform that will improve  
3 access to and affordability of health care in the state;

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5           (ii) In conjunction with the healthcare  
6 commission, recommend issues to be considered by the  
7 legislature in the 2008 budget session and assist the  
8 healthcare commission in determining and prioritizing  
9 potential issues with respect to access and affordability  
10 of health care and health insurance for subsequent  
11 legislative action; and

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13           (iii) In conjunction with the healthcare  
14 commission, define a process for public review and  
15 discussion of task force topics that includes at least five  
16 (5) community town hall meetings in various regions of the  
17 state.

18

19           (f) In conjunction with the healthcare commission,  
20 the task force shall issue a report to the governor and the  
21 joint labor, health and social services interim committee  
22 no later than October 15, 2007 including recommendations  
23 for a state plan to promote access to and affordability of  
24 health insurance.

1

2 (g) The task force shall be staffed by the governor's  
3 office with support from the department of health and the  
4 healthcare commission. The task force may contract for  
5 administrative and research services to aid in preparation  
6 of the task force report. The governor's office shall  
7 convene the task force no later than July 15, 2007.

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9 (h) The task force shall exist until October 15,  
10 2007. Except for legislative members, members of the task  
11 force shall not receive a salary but shall receive  
12 reimbursement for necessary travel and per diem expenses in  
13 the manner and amount provided for state employees under  
14 W.S. 9-3-102 and 9-3-103.

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16 **Section 2.** For purposes of this act for the fiscal  
17 biennium ending June 30, 2008, there is appropriated one  
18 hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$120,000.00) from the  
19 general fund. Of this amount, twenty thousand dollars  
20 (\$20,000.00) is appropriated to the legislative service  
21 office to fund the salaries, per diem and travel expense of  
22 the state legislative members of the task force pursuant to  
23 section 1 of this act. The remainder is appropriated to  
24 the governor's office to fund the meetings and activities

1 of the task force and to contract with appropriate  
2 professionals as necessary to complete the duties assigned  
3 to the task force in section 1 of this act.

4

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

9

10 (END)