ARTICLE 28
HEALTH CARE COMMISSION

9 2 2801. Health care commission created; membership; salary; meetings; advisory committees.

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

(b) The commission shall consist of nine (9) members appointed by the governor.

(c) 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 for the remainder of the term. The governor may remove members as provided in W.S. 9 1 202. Commission members who are not state employees shall receive a salary equal to the per diem paid members of the Wyoming legislature under W.S. 28 5 101 for each day of actual service and when engaged in necessary travel plus necessary expenses.

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

(e) The commission shall meet at the call of the chairman. Five (5) members shall constitute a quorum.

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

(g) The commission may form advisory committees to assist with its duties imposed under this article. Advisory committee members shall serve until completion of duties delegated by the commission. Services rendered by advisory committee members shall be voluntary and shall not be compensated, except for meal, lodging and travel expenses as provided in W.S. 9 3 102 and 9 3 103. Members of advisory committees shall meet at the call of the chairman of the advisory committees.

9 2 2802. Director; appointment; duties; additional staff; qualifications.

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

(i) Serve as administrative head of the commission;

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

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

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

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

9 2 2803. Health care commission duties; report; open meetings; attorney general to represent; rulemaking.

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

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

(ii) Access to affordable health insurance;

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

(iv) Disease prevention and management;

(v) Health care tort and liability insurance reform;

(vi) Workforce shortages among medical provider professions;

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

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

(ix) The implications of any reforms for non-health care activities;

(x) A system to investigate and reduce health care errors with the provision of compensation for errors due to negligence on a schedule as an exclusive remedy;

(xi) Other issues as deemed appropriate by the governor and the commission.

(b) The commission shall consult and coordinate with the state planning grant task force within the department of health on issues relating to health insurance. The governor may make the state planning grant task force subordinate to the commission, assign the commission director as executive secretary of the state planning grant task force or merge the task force into the commission.

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

(d) Every two (2) months the commission shall submit a written progress report to the joint labor, health and social services interim committee. The committee shall create a subcommittee to meet jointly with the commission, as appropriate and subject to the agreement of the chairman of the commission, and prepare legislation necessary to implement commission recommendations. The subcommittee shall submit recommended draft legislation to the joint labor, health and social services interim committee for consideration.

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

9 2 2804. Termination of article.

W.S. 9 2 2801 through 9 2 2803 are repealed effective June 30, 2005.

2003 Enabling Legislation, 2004 Special Session Laws Chapter 4

2004 Legislature's Enrolled Act 31

2004 Legislature's Enrolled Act 32