

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0266

Refugee resettlement plan accountability.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Locke, Allemand, Angelos, Bear, Smith, Trujillo and Winter and Senator(s) Laursen, D

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to the administration of government;  
2 requiring legislative approval of a refugee resettlement  
3 plan; providing for assignment of a refugee resettlement  
4 plan to a legislative committee; requiring public hearings;  
5 requiring reports; and providing for an effective date.

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

8

9 **Section 1.** W.S. 9-25-101 is created to read:

10

11

CHAPTER 25

12

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

13

14 **9-25-101. Wyoming refugee resettlement plan**  
15 **accountability; review; reports.**

1

2 (a) The Wyoming legislature is hereby declared to be  
3 the appropriate legislative authority of the state in  
4 accordance with 45 C.F.R. part 400, with exclusive  
5 authority to designate a state agency to develop and  
6 administer, or supervise the administration of, any refugee  
7 resettlement plan and to designate a state coordinator to  
8 be responsible for the coordination of public and private  
9 resources for refugee resettlement. As used in this  
10 section, "refugee resettlement plan" means any written  
11 description of a refugee or asylum seeking resettlement  
12 program or any commitment by the governor or any designee  
13 of the governor to administer or supervise the  
14 administration of a refugee or asylum seeking resettlement  
15 program pursuant to the federal Immigration and Nationality  
16 Act, 8 U.S.C. §§ 1521 through 1524.

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18 (b) Not later than April 1, 2023, the governor or any  
19 designee of the governor shall rescind all refugee  
20 resettlement plans or agreements submitted to the federal  
21 office of refugee resettlement within the United States  
22 department of health and human services before April 1,  
23 2023. No refugee resettlement plan for refugees to be

1 placed in the state of Wyoming shall be effective until the  
2 refugee resettlement plan is submitted to and approved by  
3 the legislature as provided under subsections (c) and (d)  
4 of this section.

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6 (c) The governor or any designee of the governor  
7 shall submit any refugee resettlement plan to the  
8 legislature for approval. Any refugee resettlement plan  
9 submitted to the legislature shall provide:

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11 (i) A description of how the state intends to  
12 encourage effective refugee resettlement and to promote  
13 economic self-sufficiency of refugees as quickly as  
14 possible;

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16 (ii) A description of how the state will ensure  
17 that language training and employment services are made  
18 available to refugees receiving cash assistance;

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20 (iii) A recommendation for the designation of a  
21 state employee or official who will be responsible for  
22 ensuring coordination of public and private resources for  
23 refugee resettlement;

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2 (iv) For the care and supervision of, and legal  
3 responsibility for, unaccompanied refugee children in the  
4 state;

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6 (v) For the identification of refugees who, at  
7 the time of resettlement in the state, have medical  
8 conditions requiring, or medical histories showing a need  
9 for, treatment or observation and for any monitoring of  
10 treatment or observation as may be necessary;

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12 (vi) A description of funds necessary to  
13 implement the refugee resettlement plan and a complete  
14 description of projected federal or private funds available  
15 to carry out the refugee resettlement plan, including  
16 reimbursements, grants and contracts. The description shall  
17 include a timeline for receipt and expenditure of funds and  
18 a projection of any state funds necessary to implement the  
19 refugee resettlement plan after all reimbursements, grants  
20 and contracts are exhausted.

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22 (d) Upon receipt of any plan proposed and submitted  
23 under subsection (c) of this section, the management

1 council of the legislature shall assign the refugee  
2 resettlement plan to a joint interim committee. The  
3 assigned joint interim committee shall review the plan and  
4 convene public hearings to receive comments from Wyoming  
5 citizens, local government representatives, volunteer  
6 agencies and other parties interested in the plan. The  
7 committee shall report recommendations for consideration by  
8 the legislature in the next legislative session and may  
9 develop and introduce legislation to implement or authorize  
10 any refugee resettlement plan.

11

12 **Section 2.** This act is effective immediately upon  
13 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law  
14 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming  
15 Constitution.

16

17

(END)