

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0047

Refugee resettlement plan accountability.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Reeder, Allen, Blackburn, Clem, Halverson, Jaggi, Jennings, Kroeker, Miller and Steinmetz and Senator(s) Driskill and Meier

A BILL

for

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

5

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

7

8 **Section 1.** W.S. 9-21-101 is created to read:

9

10

CHAPTER 21

11

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

12

13 **9-21-101. Wyoming refugee resettlement plan**
14 **accountability.**

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 authority
5 to designate a state agency to develop and administer, or
6 supervise the administration of, any refugee resettlement
7 plan and to designate a state coordinator to be responsible
8 for coordination of public and private resources in refugee
9 resettlement. For purposes of this act "refugee
10 resettlement plan" means any written description of a
11 refugee or asylum seeking resettlement program or any
12 commitment by the governor or any designee of the governor
13 to administer or supervise the administration of a refugee
14 or asylum seeking resettlement program pursuant to the
15 Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1521 et seq.

16

17 (b) The governor or any designee of the governor
18 shall rescind all refugee resettlement plans or agreements
19 submitted to the office of refugee resettlement within the
20 United States department of health and human services prior
21 to the effective date of this act. No refugee resettlement
22 plan for refugees to be placed in the state of Wyoming
23 shall be effective until the refugee resettlement plan is

1 submitted to and approved by the legislature as provided
2 under subsections (c) and (d) of this section.

3

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

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

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

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18 (iii) A recommendation for the designation of an
19 individual, employed by the state, who will be responsible
20 for ensuring coordination of public and private resources
21 in refugee resettlement;

22

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

4
5 (v) For the identification of refugees who at
6 the time of resettlement in the state have medical
7 conditions requiring, or medical histories indicating a
8 need for, treatment or observation and for any monitoring
9 of such treatment or observation as may be necessary;

10
11 (vi) A description of funds necessary to
12 implement the refugee resettlement plan and a complete
13 description of projected federal or private funds available
14 to carry out the refugee resettlement plan including
15 reimbursements, grants and contracts. The description
16 shall include a timeline for receipt and expenditure of
17 funds and a projection of any state funds necessary to
18 implement the refugee resettlement plan after all
19 reimbursements, grants and contracts are exhausted.

20
21 (d) Upon receipt, the legislature's management
22 council shall assign the refugee resettlement plan to a
23 joint interim committee and the committee shall review the

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

8

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

13

14

(END)