

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0158

Refugee resettlement plan accountability.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Locke, Allemand, Bear, Haroldson, Heiner, Jennings, Knapp, Ottman, Pendergraft, Penn, Slagle, Smith, Styvar and Ward 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.

6

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

1           **9-25-101. Wyoming refugee resettlement plan**  
2 **accountability; review; reports.**

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

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20           (b) Not later than July 1, 2024, the governor or any  
21 designee of the governor shall rescind all refugee  
22 resettlement plans or agreements submitted to the federal  
23 office of refugee resettlement within the United States

1 department of health and human services made before April  
2 1, 2024. No refugee resettlement plan for refugees to be  
3 placed in the state of Wyoming shall be effective until the  
4 refugee resettlement plan is submitted to and approved by  
5 the legislature as provided under subsections (c) and (d)  
6 of this section.

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

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

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

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22 (iii) A recommendation for the designation of a  
23 state employee or official who will be responsible for

1 ensuring coordination of public and private resources for  
2 refugee resettlement;

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

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

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

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1           (d) Upon receipt of any plan proposed and submitted  
2 under subsection (c) of this section, the management  
3 council of the legislature shall assign the refugee  
4 resettlement plan to a joint interim committee of the  
5 legislature. The assigned joint interim committee shall  
6 review the plan and convene public hearings to receive  
7 comments from Wyoming citizens, local government  
8 representatives, volunteer agencies and other parties  
9 interested in the plan. The committee shall report  
10 recommendations for consideration by the legislature in the  
11 next legislative session and may develop and introduce  
12 legislation to implement or authorize any refugee  
13 resettlement plan.

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

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(END)