

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 407

FINAL READING

Introduced by Pansing Brooks, 28; Baker, 30; Brewer, 43; Crawford, 45;
Kolterman, 24; Lindstrom, 18; McDonnell, 5; Wishart, 27.

Read first time January 13, 2017

Committee: Executive Board

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to public health; to create and provide duties
- 2 for a task force; and to provide for termination.
- 3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. (1) The Whiteclay Public Health Emergency Task Force is
2 created.

3 (2) The task force shall consist of five voting members: The
4 chairperson of the State-Tribal Relations Committee of the Legislature,
5 an additional member of the State-Tribal Relations Committee of the
6 Legislature, the chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee
7 of the Legislature or his or her designee, the chairperson of the
8 Appropriations Committee of the Legislature or his or her designee, and
9 the chairperson of the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature or his or
10 her designee. The voting members of the task force shall choose a
11 chairperson and vice-chairperson from among the voting members.

12 (3) The task force shall also include the following nonvoting, ex
13 officio members: The executive director of the Commission on Indian
14 Affairs or his or her designee, a public health expert, and a data
15 analysis expert from the University of Nebraska Medical Center appointed
16 by the Chancellor of the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

17 (4) The task force shall consult with (a) advocacy groups that focus
18 on public health issues and economic development issues, (b) academic
19 experts in health care and economic development issues, (c) service
20 providers, (d) educational institutions, (e) workforce development
21 agencies, and (f) experts in public health issues for Native American
22 people.

23 Sec. 2. (1) The Whiteclay Public Health Emergency Task Force shall
24 examine public health implications of alcohol sales in Whiteclay,
25 Nebraska, on the Whiteclay community and surrounding areas, including the
26 neighboring Pine Ridge Reservation. The task force shall: (a) Collect,
27 examine, and analyze data on fetal alcohol syndrome and other health
28 conditions related to alcoholism in such areas; (b) collect, examine, and
29 analyze data on access in such areas to detoxification, treatment
30 facilities, telehealth, distance learning, and other health resources for
31 those affected by the consumption of alcohol, including affected

1 children; (c) collect, examine, and analyze data on children in such
2 areas who are at risk of continuing a cycle of alcoholism unless outside
3 intervention is made available; (d) encourage participation and obtain
4 input from academic and medical experts, including, but not limited to,
5 the University of Nebraska Medical Center; (e) encourage and obtain input
6 from nonprofit organizations, faith-based institutions, and city, county,
7 and tribal government officials to evaluate and develop strategies and
8 solutions to help victims escape alcoholism; (f) study, evaluate, and
9 report on the status and effectiveness of policies, procedures, and
10 programs implemented by other states directed toward Native American
11 populations as they relate to preventing and combating alcoholism; (g)
12 evaluate the adequacy of interagency data sharing and policy coordination
13 and recommend changes as necessary; (h) examine sources of federal,
14 state, and private funds that may be available for prevention,
15 detoxification, treatment, rehabilitation, and economic development; (i)
16 create a long-range strategic plan containing measurable goals and
17 benchmarks, including future action needed to attain those goals and
18 benchmarks, for decreasing the incidence of alcohol-related health
19 problems through prevention programs and increasing treatment, access to
20 detoxification services, and economic growth in Whiteclay, Nebraska, and
21 the surrounding areas; and (j) recommend data-supported changes to
22 policies, procedures, and programs to address the needs of children
23 affected by alcohol-related health issues and to help those children
24 escape the cycle of alcoholism, including the steps that will be required
25 to make the recommended changes and whether further action is required by
26 the Legislature or local governments.

27 (2) To accomplish the objectives set forth in subsection (1) of this
28 section, the task force may request, obtain, review, and analyze
29 information relating to public health issues in Whiteclay, Nebraska, and
30 surrounding areas, including, but not limited to, reports, audits, data,
31 projections, and statistics.

1 Sec. 3. On or before December 15, 2017, and on or before December
2 15, 2018, the Whiteclay Public Health Emergency Task Force shall submit a
3 preliminary report to the Governor, the executive director of the
4 Commission on Indian Affairs, and electronically to the State-Tribal
5 Relations Committee of the Legislature and the Executive Board of the
6 Legislative Council. On or before December 31, 2019, the task force shall
7 submit a final report to the Governor, the executive director of the
8 Commission on Indian Affairs, and electronically to the State-Tribal
9 Relations Committee of the Legislature and the Executive Board of the
10 Legislative Council. The preliminary reports and the final report shall
11 include: (1) The long-range strategic plan required pursuant to section 2
12 of this act; (2) a summary of the actions taken by the task force to
13 fulfill its statutory purposes and duties during the time period covered
14 by the report; (3) a description of the policies, procedures, and
15 programs that have been implemented or modified to help rectify the
16 Whiteclay public health emergency; and (4) the task force's
17 recommendations on how the state should act to solve issues relating to
18 the Whiteclay public health emergency and the economic and social issues
19 contributing to the emergency.

20 The Whiteclay Public Health Emergency Task Force shall terminate on
21 December 31, 2019.