LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 407

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,
Section 1. (1) The Whiteclay Public Health Emergency Task Force is created. The task force shall be composed of an executive committee and an advisory committee.

(2) The executive committee of the task force shall consist of five voting members: The chairperson of the State-Tribal Relations Committee of the Legislature, the chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature, and three at-large members. One of the at-large members shall be an official of the University of Nebraska Medical Center appointed by the Chancellor of the University of Nebraska Medical Center. The remaining at-large members shall be appointed by the Executive Board of the Legislative Council. The voting members of the executive committee shall choose a chairperson and vice-chairperson from among the voting members.

(3) The executive committee shall also include the following nonvoting, ex officio members: The chief executive officer of the Department of Health and Human Services or his or her designee, the executive director of the Commission on Indian Affairs or his or her designee, and the executive director of the Department of Economic Development or his or her designee, a public health expert, and a data analysis expert from the University of Nebraska Medical Center appointed by the Chancellor of the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

(4) The advisory committee of the task force shall consist of at least ten members who shall be nonvoting members appointed by the executive committee of the task force through an application and selection process and shall represent (a) advocacy groups that focus on public health issues and economic development issues, (b) academic experts in health care and economic development issues, (c) service providers, (d) educational institutions, (e) workforce development agencies, and (f) experts in public health issues for Native American people.

Sec. 2. (1) The Whiteclay Public Health Emergency Task Force shall
examine public health implications of alcohol sales in Whiteclay, Nebraska, on the Whiteclay community and surrounding areas, including the neighboring Pine Ridge Reservation. The task force shall: (a) Collect, examine, and analyze data on fetal alcohol syndrome and other health conditions related to alcoholism in such areas; (b) collect, examine, and analyze data on access in such areas to detoxification, treatment facilities, telehealth, distance learning, and other health resources for those affected by the consumption of alcohol, including affected children; (c) collect, examine, and analyze data on children in such areas who are at risk of continuing a cycle of alcoholism unless outside intervention is made available; (d) encourage participation and obtain input from academic and medical experts, including, but not limited to, the University of Nebraska Medical Center; (e) encourage and obtain input from nonprofit organizations, faith-based institutions, and city, county, and tribal government officials to evaluate and develop strategies and solutions to help victims escape alcoholism; (f) study, evaluate, and report on the status and effectiveness of policies, procedures, and programs implemented by other states directed toward Native American populations as they relate to preventing and combating alcoholism; (g) evaluate the adequacy of interagency data sharing and policy coordination and recommend changes as necessary; (h) examine sources of federal, state, and private funds that may be available for prevention, detoxification, treatment, rehabilitation, and economic development; (i) create a long-range strategic plan containing measurable goals and benchmarks, including future action needed to attain those goals and benchmarks, for decreasing the incidence of alcohol-related health problems through prevention programs and increasing treatment, access to detoxification services, and economic growth in Whiteclay, Nebraska, and the surrounding areas; and (j) recommend data-supported changes to policies, procedures, and programs to address the needs of children affected by alcohol-related health issues and to help those children
escape the cycle of alcoholism, including the steps that will be required
to make the recommended changes and whether further action is required by
the Legislature or local governments.

(2) To accomplish the objectives set forth in subsection (1) of this
section, the task force may: (a) Request, obtain, review, and analyze
information relating to public health issues in Whiteclay, Nebraska, and
surrounding areas, including, but not limited to, reports, audits, data,
projections, and statistics; and (b) appoint one or more special
committees to advise and assist the task force. Members of any such
special committee shall be appointed by the chairperson of the task force
and may be members of the task force or individuals from the private or
public sector. Any such special committee shall regularly report to the
task force on the progress of the special committee. Members of a special
committee appointed under this section shall not receive reimbursement or
payment for work done in relation to the special committee.

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

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