



Implementing Health Insurance Exchanges: Wyoming

Establishing the Exchange

On March 10, 2011, Governor Matt Mead (R) signed HB 0050 into law establishing the Wyoming Health Insurance Exchange Steering Committee to study the feasibility of creating a health insurance exchange in the state.¹ The Committee is comprised of four members from the Legislature and 17 appointees, including representatives of businesses, insurers, providers, hospitals, consumers, and state agencies.²

Exchange Funding

In September 2010, the Wyoming Department of Insurance received a federal Exchange Planning grant of \$800,000. Additionally, HB 0050 appropriated \$145,000 from the General Fund for any portions of the study not paid for by the federal grant.

Next Steps

The Steering Committee has met regularly since June 15, 2011, to review exchange policy options. The Committee plans to engage subcontractors to model the economics of a state-run exchange and to explore the possibility of forming a regional exchange with other states.³ To inform the Steering Committee's decision making, the Wyoming Insurance Department is also soliciting subcontractors to conduct background research and present the advantages and disadvantages of an exchange run by the federal government.

The Exchange Committee will submit a preliminary report to the Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Interim Committee by October 1, 2011.

¹ HB 0050: Signed March 10, 2011. <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2011/Engross/HB0050.pdf>

² Wyoming's Insurance Exchange Committee members : http://trib.com/news/opinion/blogs/wolfjammies/article_66b88eb8-c1cc-5426-bad4-f8febf79bbbed.html

³ Wolfson J. "Wyoming panel to gather more information before making insurance exchange decision." *Billings Gazette*. August 18, 2011. http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/article_e2df9988-f45c-5b6d-9972-9286bf32ebb5.htm