



2023 Wyoming Legislature General Session

Legislative Overview and Accomplishments



SUMMARY

Legislation By The Numbers

- 497 total bills/files were numbered for introduction this year in the House & Senate
- 300 numbered in the House, 197 numbered in the Senate
 - 196 Bills, or 35% of bills, passed the House and Senate
 - 61% of committee bills passed in both chambers
 - 30% of individually sponsored bills passed in both chambers
 - 180 Bills/Files have become law
- 92 House Bills became law*
- 88 Senate Files became law*

*Bills either signed into law or pending signature by Governor Gordon on 3/14/23. Numbers could change pending vetoes from the Governor.



SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET BILL

Total Appropriations in 2023 General Session Supplemental Budget Bill: \$380 million

Total Additional Authorized Positions: contains increases to total authorized positions for the Executive Branch from 19-20*

Additional General Fund Appropriations: Large Agencies & Programs

Department of Health: \$34.3 million

Department of Corrections: \$6.1 million

*Note: These totals reflect the full appropriations, prior to any reductions that are contingent upon the enactment of other bills.



SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- The Legislature put \$1.4 billion into savings, more than any prior Wyoming Legislature.
- About half of the savings in the supplemental budget bill goes to K-12 savings in the Common School Permanent Land Fund and the Common School Reserve Account.
- These savings will benefit future generations and provide returns that will help tackle our state's economic ups-and- downs.
- Because we know from experience that good times are usually followed by hard times.
- We also spent responsibly, with just \$1 in spending from the General Fund for every \$3.50 in total savings.
- Targeted appropriations include an external cost adjustment for K-12 school districts from School Foundation Program Funds and \$130 million in General Funds for matching funds energy or federal infrastructure projects.
- We also restored funding for various health programs.
 - For example, approximately 40,000 Wyoming children on Medicaid will have access to a dentist.



SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET SAVINGS

Breakdown of \$1.4 billion in savings:

- Common School Account within the Permanent Land Fund: This act modifies transfers among state accounts to deposit up to \$367.6 million to the Common School Account within the Permanent Land Fund; this is comprised of \$121.1 million revenue redirection and \$246.5 million from the School Foundation Program Account.
- Permanent Wyoming Mineral Trust Fund: This act transfers up to \$367.6 million to the Permanent Wyoming Mineral Trust Fund; this is comprised of \$150.0 million General Funds and up to \$217.6 million from the Legislative Stabilization Reserve Account.
- Common School Permanent Fund Reserve Account: This act transfers up to \$359.1 million to the Common School Permanent Fund Reserve Account; this is comprised of \$139.7 million from the Legislative Stabilization Reserve Account and \$219.4 million from revenue redirections.



SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET SAVINGS (cont.)

Breakdown of \$1.4 billion in savings:

- Permanent Wyoming Mineral Trust Fund Reserve Account: This act transfers up to \$274.7 million to the Permanent Wyoming Mineral Trust Fund Reserve Account from the Legislative Stabilization Reserve Account.
- Hathaway Student Scholarship Reserve Account: This act transfers up to \$4.6 million to the Hathaway Student Scholarship Reserve Account from the Legislative Stabilization Reserve Account.
- Excellence Higher Education Endowment Reserve Account: This act transfers up to \$1.2 million to the Excellence in Higher Education Endowment Reserve Account from the Legislative Stabilization Reserve Account.



HB0195 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT APPROPRIATIONS - AMENDMENTS

- Since the start of the pandemic 2020, Wyoming has received over eight billion dollars in various forms, from the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to bolster Wyoming businesses, to money for hospitals, mental health, and schools. Through HB195, the Legislature reverted \$50 million from prior appropriations and amends and appropriated \$122 million of one-time direct funding.
- This act amends programs already authorized and creates new programs for the expenditure of federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds from funds that were not appropriated last Legislative Session.
- The act provides that any unexpended, unobligated ARPA Direct Funds available at project completion revert and are reappropriated in equal amounts to: (1) the Office of State Lands and Investments for grants for qualifying health and human services infrastructure projects; and (2) the Office of State Lands and Investments for eligible water and sewer projects.



HB0195 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT APPROPRIATIONS – AMENDMENTS (cont.)

Key American Rescue Plan Direct Appropriations from 2023 General Session

- Outdoor recreation and tourism: \$12 M
- Food insecurity: \$3 M
- Health and Human Services Capital Construction: \$40 M
- Local government support projects: \$20 M
- Water and sewer projects: \$30 M



HB185 LOCAL GOVERNMENT DISTRIBUTIONS-REVISIONS

- In the 2022 budget session, the Legislature made an appropriation for purposes of distributing funds to cities, towns and counties under the local government distribution formula. This bill increases the amount of this appropriation, recognizing community needs.
- The local government distributions formula calculates an amount for each city, town and county based on various factors including population, assessed valuation and per capita sales and use tax collection. The appropriation was in the amount of \$120,000,000 over a two-year period or \$60,000,000 per year of the biennium.
- This act increases the amount of the appropriation to \$146,250,000, so that \$86,250,000 will be available for distribution under the local government distribution formula in the second year of the biennium.



SF0146 CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION

[SF0146 State funded capital construction](#) funds \$149,661,263 from the General Fund for construction projects for the University of Wyoming, community colleges and other state facilities.

University of Wyoming

Most of these projects have been in the pipeline for many years, such as the construction of two new dorms for UW and replacement of the War Memorial Stadium west stands which were originally constructed in the 1950s. This bill provides funding to compensate for inflationary pressures.

It rebuilds the UW swimming pool which was originally built decades ago.



SF0146 CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION cont.

Community college projects include:

- A new building at Western Wyoming Community College for its new powerline technology program
- Patching up of the exterior of Laramie County Community College
- Construction at Northern Wyoming Community College and Eastern Wyoming Community College.

State Fair

- The bill also provides \$500k for maintenance/construction for the state fair in Douglas.



SF0146 CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION cont.

State Facilities

- The act appropriates up to \$10,000,000 from the Wyoming State Penitentiary Capital Construction Account to the State Construction Department for projects related to: (1) the demolition of the North Unit at the Old State Penitentiary in Rawlins; (2) the demolition of the Wyoming Honor Farm Administrative Building; and (3) the relocation of utilities and information-technology assets from the administrative building to another suitable location at the Honor Farm.
- The act establishes the Riverton State Office Building Task Force, which includes six legislators, the director of the State Construction Department (or the director's designee), and not more than four members that the Governor appoints from state agencies to evaluate the viability of a major state office building in Riverton.



KEY REVENUE/BUDGET BILLS

[HB89 - State investment returns-adequate reserve funding](#). This bill adopts a long-term commitment to funding Wyoming's permanent fund reserve accounts at a level that maximizes investment returns and provides maximum benefits to permanent fund beneficiaries and to the state of Wyoming.

[HB99 - Property tax refund program](#). This bill amends the income, asset and other qualifications for the property tax refund program and the county optional property tax refund program.

[SF41 - Skill based amusement games-authorized locations](#). This bill limits the location of skill-based amusement games to locations that are licensed to serve alcohol and truck stops. The measure allows skill-games that are lawfully operating at other locations prior to a specific date to continue operating.

[SF42 - Taxation of cigars](#). This bill defines a premium cigar and establishes a maximum tax amount for a premium cigar. The bill also specifies that the tax is due upon the sale of a premium cigar rather than on the inventory.

[SF63 - Tax administration revisions](#). This bill allows the Department of Revenue to credit or waive interest related to mine product taxes. The bill provides that any assessment or levy of sales and use taxes resulting from an audit or review shall be issued by the department within one year of the audit or review.

[SJ3 – Property tax residential property class](#). This resolution would authorize the Legislature to create a subclass of owner-occupied primary residences. Creating this subclass is critical for the Legislature's capability to bring bills in the future that could result in more meaningful property tax relief for Wyoming citizens. It must be voted on by Wyoming voters in the next General Election.



KEY EDUCATION BILLS

[HB28 - Community college capital construction.](#) This bill increases the minimum estimated cost of community college capital construction projects which require approval of the community college commission, increasing the amount from \$100,000 to \$250,000.

[HB29 - Community college funding-distance education credit hours.](#) This bill modifies the definition of distance education for community college courses and eliminates the full-time weighted equivalency for distance education class credit hours for calculations in the community college funding allocation model. These courses will be weighted based on content pursuant to existing statute.

[HB31 - BOCES as local education agencies.](#) This bill authorizes a board of cooperative educational services to act as a local education agency for the purposes of applying for and receiving state and federal grant funding.

[HB33 - School finance-career technical education grants.](#) This bill creates a competitive grant program for K-12 school districts to purchase career and technical education supplies, materials and equipment. Grants are limited to \$50,000 per year. This bill contains an appropriation of \$250,000 for school year 2023-2024 and directs the Department of Education to include this program in future standard budget requests.



KEY EDUCATION BILLS (cont.)

[HB0070 - Definition of home-based educational program](#). This bill removes restrictions currently in statute that only permit home-based education to be provided by a child's parent or legal guardian.

[HB0175 - Excused absence-state fair events](#). This bill modifies the definition of excused absence for K-12 public schools to include programming or competitions sponsored by nationally recognized organizations and clubs that promote youth agriculture education and for events associated with participating in the annual state fair.

[SF0174 - Wyoming charter school authorizing board](#). This bill creates the Wyoming charter school authorizing board as an independent authorizer to supervise and approve the operation of charter schools, replacing the State Lands and Investments Board added in 2021. School districts retain the ability to approve and supervise the operation of charter schools. This act provides that one (1) additional charter school may be authorized by the Wyoming charter school authorizing board, beginning July 1, 2026, through July 1, 2028.



KEY APPROPRIATIONS BILLS

[HB93 - Omnibus water bill-construction](#). This bill recognizes the importance of water to the agriculture community, providing authorization and funding for water development program projects, including 2023 construction projects, 2023 rehabilitation projects and amendments to prior projects.

[HB181 - Online sports wagering-amendments](#). This bill requires key personnel of an online sports wagering operator and employees of online sports wagering operators who are capable of changing play or the outcome of wagers to be licensed by the Wyoming Gaming Commission. The bill also extends the time (from 60 days to 90 days) in which the Wyoming Gaming Commission must act on license applications.

[SF71 - State loan and bond programs](#). This bill amends the terms, interest rates, and conditions for farm loans, infrastructure project loans, and street-and-road project loans for local governments. This bill also decreases the maximum aggregate funding limits for various state loan programs and would limit the investment of the Permanent Wyoming Mineral Trust Fund in community college district bonds. The bill prohibits new loans under the Wyoming Joint Powers Act and student dormitory loans.



KEY LABOR, HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES BILLS

[HB04 - Medicaid twelve month postpartum coverage.](#) This bill authorizes the Department of Health to extend postpartum coverage for twelve months to qualifying individuals enrolled in Medicaid. This additional exception contains a sunset provision of March 31, 2027.

[HB0127 - Health care facilities and clergy.](#) This bill allows clergy members to have in-person visitation with residents or patients of health care facilities during public health emergencies. The visitation must be at the request of the patient or resident or their legally authorized representative if the patient or resident is incapacitated.

[SF08 - Essential subsidy payments to behavioral health centers.](#) This bill amends the distribution of essential subsidy payments and makes them permissive rather than mandatory. It provides that the payment amounts will be based on service needs as demonstrated by the behavioral health center.



KEY LABOR, HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES BILLS (cont.)

[SF10 - Licensed professional counselor compact.](#) This bill authorizes Wyoming to enter into the Interstate Compact for Licensed Professional Counselors. The Compact allows Wyoming licensed professional counselors to practice in other compact states and allow other compact state licensed professional counselors to practice in Wyoming.

[SF11 - Cancer early detection amendments.](#) This bill amends eligibility requirements for the Wyoming colorectal cancer early detection and prevention program by restricting eligibility to individuals who meet appropriate age requirements and are uninsured or underinsured.

[SF26 - Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact.](#) This bill adopts the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact, which authorizes the temporary and telemedicine-based provision of psychology services by psychologists not licensed to practice psychology in Wyoming.

[SF79 - Plan of safe care-newborns.](#) This act requires health care providers to develop plans of safe care for infants born or suspected to be born affected by substance use or withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug or alcohol exposure.



KEY ENERGY/MINERALS BILLS

[HB61 - Source material associated with mining-agreement.](#) This bill authorizes the Governor to enter into negotiations with the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the state of Wyoming to assume primary responsibility for regulating source material (uranium and thorium) associated with mining (specifically, mining for rare-earth minerals).

[HB0069 - Coal-fired facility closures litigation funding-amendments.](#) This bill amends a 2021 appropriation of funds to the office of the governor for purposes of litigating against other states who enacted laws or regulations that impeded Wyoming's ability to export coal. This measure now allows the governor to intervene and defend in the lawsuits against the federal government, its agencies, local governments and third parties including a corporation, partnership or other unincorporated association while expanding the state's ability to defend against regulations that negatively impact the coal industry.

[HB62 - Open banking.](#) This bill authorizes state-chartered banks to participate in open banking, where banks would share customer data with third-party financial service providers for streamlining services offered to customers. Banks can only provide access to customer data upon the express written consent of the customer and through the use of application programming interfaces.



KEY ENERGY/MINERALS BILLS cont.

[HB50 - Solid waste cease and transfer program funding.](#) This bill updates the priority list for municipal solid-waste facilities' cease-and-transfer projects and provides funding for each. The bill also provides \$100,000 of available funds to be used for carcass-management projects and repeals an earlier cease-and-transfer priority list.

[SF77 - Public works apprenticeship programs-repeal.](#) This bill repeals the statutory provisions that authorize the use of apprenticeship programs on public works projects and also repeals the bid preference for contractors who utilize the apprenticeship program.

[SF78 - Apprenticeship and job training promotion in schools.](#) This bill requires the Department of Workforce Services to provide information to boards of trustees in each school district on apprenticeship programs, student learner agreements and on-the-job training available to students. Upon receiving the information from the department of workforce services, the boards of trustees must establish guidelines to implement student training and employment programs in schools, provide credit to participating students, and annually provide information on employment training opportunities to high school students.



KEY JUDICIARY BILLS

[HB09 - Juvenile courts-concurrent jurisdiction clarification.](#) This bill clarifies that the juvenile court has concurrent jurisdiction over Juvenile Justice Act proceedings involving persons who are age 18 or older who are alleged to have committed criminal offenses or delinquent acts as minors.

[HB10 - County officers-bond amounts and surety requirement.](#) This bill increases the amount of bond required for clerks of district court, county coroners, county assessors, county clerks, county commissioners, county sheriffs, and county surveyors to \$100,000. The bill also eliminates requirements for county officers to use multiple sureties in posting the required bond. The increased bond amounts would commence with the next term of office for those positions.

[HB11 - State park rangers-retirement.](#) This bill authorizes full-time rangers of the Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources to participate in the law-enforcement state retirement plan (instead of the plan generally available to state employees). Current full-time rangers would be transferred to the law enforcement plan as of July 1, 2023 unless they elect to continue participating in the general state retirement plan. That election is irrevocable and must be made by April 30, 2023.



KEY JUDICIARY BILLS (cont.)

[HB12 - Presumptive child support amounts-updated tables.](#) This bill updates the amounts for presumptive child support that courts use to determine the child support obligation for both custodial and non-custodial parents.

[HB13 - Office of guardian ad litem-program references.](#) This bill clarifies the duties, powers, and authority of the Office of Guardian ad Litem by amending references from the guardian ad litem program.

[HB14 - Civil case filing fees-amendments.](#) This bill increases the filing fee for filing civil cases in district court from \$120 to \$160. In doing so, the fee is identical to the filing fee required for probate cases.

[HB15 - County authority to dissolve museum boards-clarification.](#) In 2022, the Legislature passed a bill to expressly authorize boards of county commissioners to dissolve certain county-created boards and commissions. This bill clarifies that boards of county commissioners do not have authority to dissolve archaeological, geological, and historical museums under its authority to dissolve boards.

[SF23 - Treatment courts-transfer to judicial branch.](#) Currently, the Department of Health oversees treatment courts, which are special courts for substance offenders to complete treatment and are held accountable for completing treatment. This bill transfers responsibility and oversight for treatment courts to the Wyoming Supreme Court on July 1, 2024.



KEY JUDICIARY BILLS (cont.)

[SF24 - Financial exploitation of vulnerable adults.](#) This bill requires financial institutions to report financial exploitation of vulnerable adults, allow financial institutions to notify third parties of suspected financial exploitation, and authorize financial institutions to place temporary holds on a vulnerable adult's account.

[SF25 - District and prosecuting attorneys-bar license requirement.](#) This bill requires district attorneys and county and prosecuting attorneys to be a licensed attorney and a member in good standing with the Wyoming State Bar during the term of office for which the attorney serves.

[SF31 - Adjacent land resource data trespass-repeal.](#) This bill repeals two statutory provisions prohibiting crossing private land without permission to collect resource data on adjacent land. These provisions were previously found unconstitutional in federal court.

[SF56 - Prohibiting travel across private land for hunting purposes.](#) This bill amends a Game and Fish trespass statute to prohibit traveling through or returning across the private property of another for hunting and other similar purposes. The bill clarifies that "traveling through or returning across" requires physically touching or driving on the surface of the private property.



KEY TRAVEL, RECREATION, WILDLIFE & CULTURAL RESOURCES BILLS

[HB74 - Wyoming outdoor recreation and tourism trust fund.](#) This bill creates the Wyoming outdoor recreation trust fund and authorizes the Wyoming Parks and Cultural Resources Commission to use the income generated by the trust account to develop, supplement, and promote outdoor recreation infrastructure and opportunities in Wyoming through grants. The trust fund account would be funded by diverting 5% of the share of the state sales and use tax that is credited to the general fund until the corpus of the trust fund account reaches \$50,000,000. Additional funding may be made through financial grants and other charitable contributions, gifts, bequests, and donations.

[HB0123 - Collection of antler or horns by residents and nonresidents.](#) This bill requires the Game and Fish Commission to establish seasons for the collection of shed big game animal antlers and horns on designated state or public lands. Any season to collect antlers and horns will start seven (7) days earlier for residents than for nonresidents.

[HB0200 - Nonresident hunting licenses-application fees.](#) This act increases the fees that are required for an application for a special pool of forty percent (40%) of the nonresident hunting licenses for elk, deer and antelope. The application fee for these pools is in addition to the license fee and the licenses are drawn prior to the remaining available nonresident licenses.



KEY TRAVEL, RECREATION, WILDLIFE & CULTURAL RESOURCES BILLS

[HB0276 - Shed antlers and horns conservation stamp](#). This bill requires the Game and Fish Commission to establish by rule a requirement for nonresidents to obtain a conservation stamp for the collection of big game animal shed antlers and horns on designated state lands during specified times. The measure clarifies that shed antlers or horns located on state or public lands are the property of the state.

[SF58 - Sutton archaeological site administration](#). This bill designates the Sutton Archaeological Site, that was bequeathed to the state, as a state archaeological site and requires the Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources to manage the site.

[SF59 - State parks account-agency expenditure authority](#). In 2021, the Legislature passed a bill to allow the Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources to use 60% of the funds in the state parks account for maintenance and operational costs associated with outdoor recreation areas and facilities for fiscal years 2022 and 2023 only. This bill allows the department to continue using 60% of the funds in the state parks account for maintenance and operational costs permanently.



KEY BLOCKCHAIN/TECHNOLOGY BILLS

[SF127 - Wyoming Stable Token Act.](#) This bill allows for the issuance, by the newly created Wyoming stable token commission, of a Wyoming stable token (a virtual currency with a value tied to the U.S. Dollar), the investment of proceeds of the stable token in United States Treasuries and the distribution of the interest made on the investments into various state accounts. The bill assigns various duties to the commission, the Select Committee on Blockchain, Financial Technology and Digital Innovation Technology, and Attorney General relating to the State's issuance of a stable token.

[HB86 - Disclosure of private cryptographic keys.](#) This bill prohibits compelling a person to produce or disclose a private cryptographic key (a unique element of cryptographic data that a person holds) to any other person in a civil, criminal, legislative, or administrative proceeding that relates to a digital asset, virtual currency, or digital identity except as specified in the bill.

[SF75 - Decentralized autonomous organizations-amendments.](#) With respect to the formation of a decentralized autonomous organization (DAO) under the DAO statute, this bill provides a definition of "publicly available identifier" and requires the articles of organization of a DAO be amended when that publicly available identifier has changed.



KEY BLOCKCHAIN/TECHNOLOGY BILLS (cont.)

[SF76 - Wyoming digital asset registration act.](#) This bill allows for the registration of a digital asset in Wyoming and provides that a registered digital asset shall be deemed located in Wyoming for purposes of all state and federal law that may require a transfer of the digital asset when that law is not in conflict with this provision.



KEY CORPORATIONS, ELECTIONS & POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS BILLS

[HB05 - Voter registry list-voter ID and absentee ballots.](#) This bill amends the definition of a registry list to include voter identification numbers and absentee ballot requests and returns. This would make voter identification numbers and absentee ballot requests and returns public records.

[HB47 - Election equipment-federal certification.](#) This bill codifies the Secretary of State's rules for certification of electronic voting systems which require a vendor to file an application for certification of an electronic voting system with the Secretary of State before the system can be used in an election. The bill also requires counties to maintain an inventory of all electronic voting systems being used.

[HB79 - Voter I.D. requirements.](#) This bill allows voters to use concealed carry permits issued by the state of Wyoming for in person voter identification.

[HB0103 - Political party affiliation declaration and changes.](#) This bill prohibits an elector from declaring or changing their political party affiliation for a primary election between the first day on which nomination applications may be filed through the day of the primary election.



KEY CORPORATIONS, ELECTIONS & POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS BILLS (cont.)

[SF02 - Wyoming telecommunications act-sunset date.](#) This bill extends the sunset date of the Wyoming Telecommunications Act to July 1, 2025. The act provides for the regulation of certain telecommunications activities.

[SF05 - Medical malpractice statutory update.](#) This bill grants the Insurance Commissioner discretion to require insurance companies to report medical malpractice claims. The bill also specifies the amount of notice to be given to insurers when reports are required.

[SF06 - Insurance rebating modernization.](#) This bill allows insurance companies to offer specified insurance rebates. The bill also updates language in the unfair insurance discrimination and insurance rebate statutes.

[SF132- Bar and grill liquor license phaseout.](#) This bill amends and gradually phases out bar and grill liquor license population formulas until July 1, 2033, when they will no longer be utilized for these licenses. The bill also amends requirements and license fees for bar and grill liquor licenses.



KEY AGRICULTURE, STATE & PUBLIC LANDS & WATER RESOURCES BILLS

[HB16 - State land leasing-improvements.](#) This bill increases the monetary threshold for improvements to leased state lands that does not require permission of the director of the Office of State Lands to construct from \$2,000 to \$4,000. Additionally, this bill changes the standard to determine the payment due for the use of an improvement to state lands from the contributory value to the depreciated value of the improvement.

[HB17 - State lands-grazing of non-owned livestock.](#) This bill clarifies that a lessee of state lands is not required to obtain the permission of the director of the Office of State Lands to graze livestock they do not own, but for which they retain management and responsibility, on leased state lands.

[HB20 - Land exchanges-notice.](#) This bill provides factors for the Board of Land Commissioners to consider when deciding whether to pursue a land exchange, so long as the exchange meets existing constitutional and statutory requirements of a value for value exchange that incurs benefit for trust beneficiaries. The bill requires the Director of the Office of State Lands and Investments to provide notice and opportunity to comment to specified persons before completing any exchange. The bill specifies that it applies to all state land exchanges pending or considered on or after the effective date of the act.



KEY AGRICULTURE, STATE & PUBLIC LANDS & WATER RESOURCES BILLS (cont.)

[HB21 State lands-use of land qualification requirements.](#) This bill clarifies that an applicant to lease state lands for agricultural and grazing purposes must have actual and necessary use of the land or forage to be qualified to lease the state lands.

[HB22 - State land lease deficiencies-cure process.](#) This bill requires the Office of State Lands and Investments to notify a current lessee of grazing and agricultural lands of the lessee's failure to file a renewal application, deficiencies in the renewal application filed, or other concerns about the lessee's qualifications or other issue that could cause the lease not to be renewed.

[HB180 - Brucellosis testing-notification requirements.](#) This bill establishes a new duty of the Wyoming Livestock Board to create a communication protocol to inform livestock producers, veterinarians and brand inspectors of a brucellosis surveillance area when a non-negative brucellosis test has been confirmed in that area. It also establishes a new duty of the State Veterinarian to provide brucellosis testing information to the owner of an animal within three (3) days of a non-negative test.



KEY AGRICULTURE, STATE & PUBLIC LANDS & WATER RESOURCES BILLS (cont.)

[SF28 - Livestock infectious disease control-tribal inclusion](#). This bill specifies that livestock producers on the Wind River Indian Reservation may participate in state programs for livestock contagious and infectious reportable disease testing, containment and reimbursements.

[SF29 - Brucellosis management updates](#). This bill updates the brucellosis management program operated by the Wyoming Livestock Board and Wyoming state veterinarian. This bill allows for discretion in determining if cattle that test positive for brucellosis should be distinctly branded, updates the brucellosis surveillance program and changes the requirements for veterinarians to provide documentation to the livestock board to receive compensation for brucellosis testing.

[SF68 - Prescriptive easement for water conveyances](#). This bill establishes the elements necessary to establish a prescriptive easement for a water conveyance by requiring that use of the water conveyance be continuous and uninterrupted, open and notorious and adverse to the landowner for a period of ten (10) years.

[SF0137 - Subdivisions-fencing requirements](#). This bill clarifies requirements for the construction, financial responsibility and maintenance of perimeter fences in subdivisions adjacent to land where livestock can legally run at large.



KEY TRANSPORTATION , HIGHWAYS & MILITARY AFFAIRS BILLS

[HB38 - Wyoming national guard member referral.](#) This bill creates the Wyoming National Guard referral incentive program to provide a monetary bonus to Wyoming National Guard members who submit names of potential referrals and the person referred signs an enlistment contract with the Wyoming National Guard. The bill also has an appropriation to pay for three years for the program and for a 1/2-time employee to administer the program.

[HB39 - Verifying the veteran designation on a WY driver's license.](#) Currently to obtain designation on a person's driver's license that the person is a veteran, the person has to obtain certification from the Wyoming Veterans Commission that the person is an honorably discharged veteran. This bill authorizes the Department of Transportation to accept documentation issued by the armed forces of the United States to verify honorable discharge of a person for the veteran designation on a Wyoming driver's license instead of requiring the extra step of outside certification.

[HB41 - Lightweight trailers-permanent registration.](#) This bill provides for the permanent registration of trailers that weigh 1,000 pounds or less and are at least six years old. The bill provides a fee exemption for permanently registered trailers and specifies the requirements that shall be done upon transfer of ownership.



KEY TRANSPORTATION , HIGHWAYS & MILITARY AFFAIRS BILLS cont.

[HB42 - Off-road recreational vehicle operation.](#) This bill specifies that off-road recreational vehicles shall not be operated on interstate highways. If operated on a right-of-way of an interstate the bill requires the operation be on a designated recreational vehicle trail which is separated by a barrier from the interstate. The bill provides for crossing the interstate at a designated crossing. The bill also requires a person operating an off-road recreational vehicle adjacent to an interstate to have a valid driver's license and to display an appropriate license plate or decal.

[HB43 - Winter road closures.](#) Currently it is a misdemeanor crime for a person to willfully fail to observe any sign, marker, warning, notice, or direction that indicates a road closing or restricted use. This bill strikes the requirement to willfully fail to observe a road closure notification and specifies that proof of the existence of the sign, marker, warning, notice or direction located before and in the same direction of travel as the location where a person is cited for a violation constitutes prima facie evidence of a violation. The bill also increases the fine amount for failing to observe road closure notifications.

[HB44 - Road and bridge construction-alternative contracting.](#) This bill provides that the Wyoming Transportation Commission may use alternate design and construction delivery methods for road and bridge construction work as authorized for other public entities under W.S. 16-6-702(c). The bill requires the Transportation Commission to promulgate rules.



KEY TRANSPORTATION , HIGHWAYS & MILITARY AFFAIRS BILLS cont.

[HB44 - Road and bridge construction-alternative contracting.](#) This bill provides that the Wyoming Transportation Commission may use alternate design and construction delivery methods for road and bridge construction work as authorized for other public entities under W.S. 16-6-702(c). The bill requires the Transportation Commission to promulgate rules.

[HB45 - Peace officer retirement and rehiring.](#) This bill allows rehiring of persons who have retired under the Wyoming State Highway Patrol, Game and Fish Warden and Criminal Investigator Retirement Act and repeals the mandatory retirement age under the Wyoming State Highway Patrol, Game and Fish Warden and Criminal Investigator Retirement Act.

[HB59 - Wyoming national guard tuition benefits.](#) This bill extends existing educational assistance benefits for Wyoming National Guard members. In exchange for additional service commitment, a National Guard member may transfer the member's educational assistance benefits to the member's spouse or dependent. The bill has an appropriation to pay for the educational benefits extended to spouses and dependents.



KEY TRANSPORTATION , HIGHWAYS & MILITARY AFFAIRS BILLS cont.

[SF14 - Wyoming national guard professional malpractice liability.](#) Currently the state defends, holds harmless and indemnifies any attorney or doctor of medicine from any financial loss arising out of any claim, demand, suit or judgment if the person was acting in the discharge of the person's military duties at the time that the alleged malpractice was committed. This bill extends this malpractice indemnity to other professionals who possess a license or credentials to practice a profession and who meet Wyoming National Guard requirements.

[SF15 - Military leave for state employees.](#) This bill strikes the requirement for a state employee to have been employed for at least one year before being allowed a leave of absence for military duty without pay, but without loss of seniority, status, efficiency rating, vacation, sick leave or other benefits while the employee is engaged in active military training or service.

[SF16 - State employee-moving expenses.](#) This bill authorizes payment of all or a portion of moving expenses for state officers and employees when recruited to state employment. The current requirement of paying for transfer expenses when a current employee is transferred as an employment requirement and for the benefit of the state is not changed.



KEY TRANSPORTATION , HIGHWAYS & MILITARY AFFAIRS BILLS cont.

[SF17 - Off-road recreational vehicles-safety and insurance.](#) This bill requires specified insurance and safety equipment (horns, mufflers, mirrors) for off-road recreational vehicles when they are operated on a public road right of way, street, road or highway.

[SF18 - Benefits for spouses of law enforcement members.](#) This bill amends and conforms the death benefits for a spouse beneficiary of the Law Enforcement Retirement Plan and the State Highway Patrol, Game and Fish Warden and Criminal Investigator Retirement Plan. The bill also specifies that the changes apply to the distribution of all benefits for the death of members after the effective date of this act but does not affect existing contracts, benefits or other obligations arising or awarded before the effective date.

[SF20 - Driver's license and ID card photo quality.](#) This bill strikes the requirement for the photograph on a Wyoming driver's license and a Wyoming identification card to be in color.

[SF21 - High occupancy vehicle lanes.](#) This bill authorizes the director of the Department of Transportation or a local authority in charge of a road to designate a high occupancy vehicle lane. The bill provides exemptions from high occupancy vehicle lane requirements, specifies a penalty for unauthorized operation in a high occupancy vehicle lane, and requires the Department of Transportation to promulgate rules.

[SF53 - Wyoming national guard medical insurance premiums.](#) The bill authorizes reimbursement of Wyoming National Guard members for their medical insurance premium payment up to a specified amount while they are serving in state active duty. The bill has an appropriation to pay for one year of reimbursements and for a 1/2-time employee to administer the program.



KEY CAPITAL FINANCING & INVESTMENTS BILLS

[HB24 State investments-compensation and relocation amendments.](#) Currently, investment staff of the State Treasurer's Office and the Wyoming Retirement System may earn performance compensation in an amount of a percentage of base salary for investment returns that exceed certain benchmarks. This bill amends the percentage of performance compensation available for senior analysts and analysts, authorizes relocation expenses for newly hired investment staff, and establishes maximum salaries for investment staff.

[HB64 Legislative stabilization reserve account-obligations.](#) This bill both reduces and repeals authorizations for agencies to borrow funds from the Legislative Stabilization Reserve Account (LSRA). The bill: (1) reduces the borrowing authority for cash-flow purposes for transportation projects affected by a federal government shutdown from \$200 million to \$100 million; (2) repeals authority for the Department of Administration and Information to borrow LSRA funds for adding school districts to the employees' group insurance plan; and (3) repeals authority for the Department of Workforce Services to borrow LSRA funds for repaying revenues or benefits associated with unemployment compensation.



KEY CAPITAL FINANCING & INVESTMENTS BILLS

[HB209 Hathaway scholarship accounts-transfer timing.](#) Under current law, unexpended and unencumbered funds in the Hathaway scholarship expenditure account (from which Hathaway scholarships are paid) are transferred to a reserve account at the end of the fiscal year. This bill changes the date of the transfer of unexpended and unencumbered funds (as of October 15) from the expenditure account to the reserve account from the end of the fiscal year to October 15 of each year.

[SF36 Investment funds committee-selection panel amendments.](#) The Investment Funds Committee (IFC) is an entity that recommends investment policies associated with investing state funds to the State Loan and Investment Board. Members of the IFC are chosen by a selection panel (whose members are selected by the State Loan and Investment Board). This bill requires vacancies of both IFC and selection panel members to be filled within 60 days of the vacancy and would require the selection panel to appoint a chairperson from among its members.



KEY SCHOOL FACILITY BILLS

[HB25 School capital construction-transfers and distributions.](#) This bill revises the distribution of funds from the school major maintenance sub account within the strategic investments and projects account and the school lands mineral royalties account to the school capital construction account. This bill also clarifies the transfer from the strategic investments and projects account to the school major maintenance subaccount occurs prior to the transfer from the strategic investments and projects account to the Wyoming state penitentiary capital construction account.

[HB27 - School facilities-consolidated remediation schedule.](#) This bill eliminates the requirement for a single consolidated remediation index for K-12 school facilities and the associated rulemaking authority.

[HB26 - School facilities-appropriations.](#) This bill modifies the budget recommendation to be submitted to the Select Committee on School Facilities by the State Construction Department for K-12 school facilities and clarifies the Legislature's ability to appropriate one sum for the design and construction of K-12 schools.



KEY TRIBAL RELATIONS BILLS

[HB18 Missing person alert systems.](#) This bill requires integration with existing missing persons alert systems additional alert systems that facilitate search efforts for an adult at risk or other missing person of an age, needs or circumstances that may fall outside the scope of the America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response (AMBER) Alert system.

[HB19 State Indian Child Welfare Act task force.](#) This bill creates a task force to study the federal Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, other states' Indian child welfare laws, and existing protections in Wyoming state laws to develop recommendations for legislation. The bill has appropriations to fund payments to task force members.

[SF28 Livestock infectious disease control-tribal inclusion.](#) This bill specifies that livestock producers on the Wind River Indian Reservation may participate in state programs for livestock contagious and infectious reportable disease testing, containment and reimbursements. The bill provides that testing, containment and reimbursement services on the Wind River Indian Reservation may also be provided pursuant to a cooperative agreement entered into by the Wyoming Livestock Board, in consultation with the State Veterinarian, and the Eastern Shoshone Tribe, the Northern Arapaho Tribe, both tribes, or a cooperative governing body of the two tribes. The bill also expands the Governor's authority to negotiate on brucellosis containment.



KEY WATER BILLS

[HB222 - Colorado river advisory committee](#). This bill establishes a permanent advisory committee that ensures a voice and seat at the decision-making table for Wyoming's water users on any actions that the federal or state governments may consider with respect to the Colorado River.

[HB93 - Omnibus water bill-construction](#). This bill authorizes and appropriates funds for Wyoming Water Development Program construction projects and amends provisions related to prior construction projects. This bill also transfers funds from Water Development Account I to Water Development Account II, and from the general fund to Water Development Account I.

[SF68 Prescriptive easement for water conveyances](#). This bill provides a statutory basis and process for a prescriptive easement for water conveyances based on the common law. The bill prescribes the requirements to acquire the easement and imposes duties on the state engineer relating to these easements.

[SF82 Eligible water and sewer projects funding](#). This bill amends 2022 Wyoming Session Laws, Chapter 50, Section 2, which provided ARPA funding, to increase by \$39.3 million the amount of funds provided for eligible water and sewer projects.

[SF96 Omnibus water bill-planning and administration](#). This bill authorizes and provides appropriations for Wyoming Water Development Program planning projects and amends prior project authorizations and appropriations. The bill also amends the funding source for the board of control and authorizes a new FTE for the water development office.



KEY LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILLS

[HB02 - Town officers-salary waiver.](#) This act allows any elected or appointed officers, mayor or city councilmen to elect not to receive all or a portion of their salary or compensation at any time during their term.

[HB10 - County officers-bond amounts and surety requirement.](#) This act increases the amount of the bond that clerks of district court, county coroners, county commissioners, county assessors, county clerks, county sheriffs and county surveyors are required to furnish. The increased bond amount is \$100,000.00.

[HB15 - County authority to dissolve museum boards-clarification.](#) This act clarifies that boards of county commissioners do not have authority to dissolve archaeological, geological, and historical museum boards under the general authority to dissolve certain boards.



KEY LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILLS (cont.)

[SF65 - Compensation of local registrars-repeal.](#) Repeals the requirement for compensation to be paid to local registrars who register certificates of death, birth and stillbirth.

[SF148 - Preemption of local firearms regulation.](#) This bill clarifies that state preemption of local regulations on firearms, weapons and ammunition applies regardless of where the firearms, weapons or ammunition were manufactured.



KEY MENTAL HEALTH BILLS

[HB65 - 988 suicide prevention](#). This bill establishes and provides for the operation of the 988 system for suicide prevention and mental health crises. This bill establishes the framework for this system.

[HB0082 - Defendant mental illness examinations-amendments](#). Current law authorizes a court to order an examination of a defendant to determine the defendant's mental fitness to proceed with the case; the examination may take place at the Wyoming State Hospital on an outpatient or inpatient basis, a local mental health center on an inpatient or outpatient basis or at the place of detention. This bill provides that, if the defendant is charged only with misdemeanor offenses, the examination may take place at a local mental health center on an inpatient or outpatient basis, at the place of detention or at the Wyoming State Hospital on an outpatient basis. The measure also provides that an examination of defendants charged with misdemeanors may be on an inpatient basis at the Wyoming State Hospital if the outpatient examination shows that an inpatient examination is warranted.

[HB0140 - Mental Health care Access-Collaborative Care Model](#). This bill requires specified health insurance policies that provide mental health and substance use disorder benefits to provide reimbursement for benefits that are delivered to the insured through the Psychiatric Collaborative Care Model, a patient-centered approach to psychiatric treatment that involves a primary care provider, a care manager and a psychiatric consultant.



OTHER BILLS OF INTEREST

[HB07 - Underage marriage-amendments](#). This act increases the age parties may marry from sixteen to eighteen years of age unless an exception applies which would allow a person sixteen or seventeen years of age to marry.

[HB0108 - Sale of THC vaping devices and edibles to minors-prohibited](#). This bill prohibits any person or retailer from selling edible products or vaping devices that contain tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) to persons under age eighteen (18).

[HB0111 - Endangering children-fentanyl](#). This bill prohibits any person from knowingly and willfully causing or permitting any child to absorb or ingest fentanyl, remain in a room where fentanyl is manufactured or sold or enter and remain in a room or dwelling used to manufacture or store illicit fentanyl. Current law already includes a similar prohibition for methamphetamine.

[HB152 - Life is a Human Right Act](#). This bill answers many of the court's questions related to the 2022 HB92. It also defines that abortion is not not health care.



OTHER BILLS OF INTEREST

[SF43 - EMS districts](#). This act provides an alternative method that allows a board of county commissioners to create an EMS district for the provision of emergency medical services by passing a resolution and appointing a board of directors for the district.

[SF109 - Prohibiting chemical abortions](#). This bill makes it illegal to prescribe or dispense chemical abortion drugs in Wyoming, except in cases of rape, incest, or severe health risks for the mother.

[SF0133 - Student eligibility in interscholastic sports](#). This bill bans transgender athletes competing against biologically born females in Wyoming schools.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Wyoming State Legislature Website:
wyoleg.gov
- Majority of the Wyoming State Legislature Website:
wyolegmajority.blogspot.com
- Social Media:
 MajoritySiteoftheWyomingLegislature