



2021 Wyoming Legislative Session

Overview and Accomplishments



SUMMARY

Legislation By The Numbers

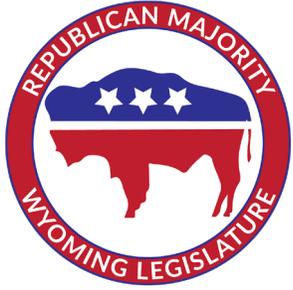
441 total bills/files were introduced during the Session

- 227 in the House; 161 in the Senate
- **178 Bills/Files were passed by both Chambers (40%)**
- 163 Bills/Files Have Been Made Law (2 vetoed)*

101 House Bills were passed by both Chambers

77 Senate Files were passed by both Chambers

*[Office of the Governor](#) as of April 16, 2021



Budget Overview

On March 29, the Wyoming Legislature approved a balanced budget (HB 001) that significantly reduces government spending in response to historic revenue shortfalls.

- **Approximately \$430 million in state General Fund spending reductions**, about 96% of the \$446 million recommended by the Joint Appropriations Committee (JAC).

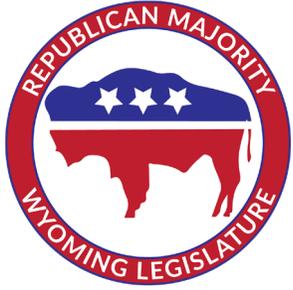
24 proposed amendments in the House and 16 in the Senate.

- The Joint Conference Committee ultimately adopted six of the House amendments, three of the Senate amendments and compromised on 10 other amendments.

The Budget was passed with overwhelming and bipartisan support

- 52-7 in the House and 26-3 in the Senate.
- The bill was signed into law by the Governor on April 1.

“Despite an epic decline in revenue we were able to maintain some crucial programs while making some modest but integral one-time investments... These are not easy decisions... but it is our constitutional duty to right-size our government based on revenues.” – Governor Mark Gordon



BUDGET

Appropriations

General Fund Appropriations: \$2,567,770,219

General Fund Appropriations Reductions: \$430 million

Federal Fund Appropriations Reductions: \$24.9 million

Net LSRA Appropriations Increase: \$2.4 million

Net SIPA Appropriations Increase: \$113.9 million

The Budget Reduced 324 Executive and Judicial Branch Positions (303 full-time; 21 part-time)

Department of Corrections: 161 FTE

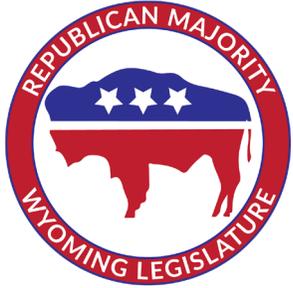
Department of Family Services: 50 FTE

Attorney General's Office, Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources: 11 FTE each

Department of Enterprise Technology Services: 10 FTE

Judicial Branch: 5 FTE

All Other Agencies: 55 FTE



BUDGET IMPACTS | Major Agencies

Department of Health

General Fund Reductions: \$111.8 million
Federal Funds Reductions: \$24.9 million
Other Funds Increase: \$18.2 million
Net: (\$118.5 million)
Total Appropriations: \$1.874 billion

Department of Corrections

General Fund Reductions: \$27.6 million
Other Fund Increase: \$4.6 million
Net: (\$23 million)
Total Appropriations: \$265.1 million

Department of Family Services

General Fund Reductions: \$15.4 million
Federal Funds Reductions: \$1.5 million
Other Funds Increase: \$400,000
Net: (\$16.5 million)
Total Appropriations: \$275.6 million

Department of Administration & Information

General Fund Reductions: \$14.9 million
Other Funds Increase: \$6 million
Net: (\$8.9 million)
Total Appropriations: \$866.7 million



Budget Background

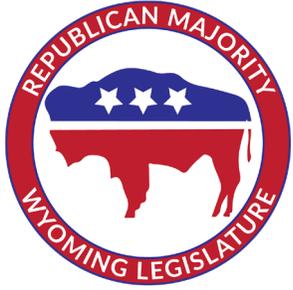
Wyoming faces historic structural revenue shortfalls, owing chiefly to declining coal, oil and natural gas production and prices, which have long been the State's primary source of income for government operations.

The Supplemental Budget makes 96% (\$430 million) of the reductions proposed by the JAC (\$446 million).

- **\$23.8 million will be spent from the Legislative Stabilization Reserve Account (LSRA)**, the state's "rainy day" fund, to make up the difference between the approved budget and the JAC's recommendations.
 - Those appropriations will go primarily to the Department of Health, the Department of Family Services and the Governor's Office for Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS).

The budget preserves investments that will continue to yield returns for the State, which can be used to supplement future budgets.

- The bill directs \$64.4 million to the Permanent Wyoming Mineral Trust Fund and a like amount to the Common School Permanent Land Fund for permanent savings.



EDUCATION FUNDING

K-12 EDUCATION

- K-12 Foundation Program:
 - School Districts: \$1.833 billion
 - School Capital Construction: \$248.3 million
- Department of Education: \$323 million

HIGHER EDUCATION

- Community Colleges: \$249.25 million
- University of Wyoming: \$416.5 million

MAJOR MAINTENANCE FOR STATE FACILITIES AND HIGHER EDUCATION:

- State, community college, and university properties: \$96.6 million (This reflects a 25% reduction)



KEY APPROPRIATIONS BILLS

HB 48, Community Juvenile Services Block Grant Program: Modifies the administration of community juvenile services block grant program to be subject to available funds.

HB 49, Agency Fee Revisions: Modifies licensing and permitting fees for the Wyoming Department of Health, Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Family Services, Department of Corrections and Department of Agriculture, which will generate more than \$0.5 million in FY 2022.

HB 87, Provider Recruitment Grant Program: Limits the Office of Rural Health's recruitment program for health care providers to the availability of funds and conditions the Wyoming Provider Recruitment Program to available funds.

SF 139, Community Based In-Home Services Program: Conditions the Department of Health's community based in-home services for Wyoming senior citizens and disabled adults to available funds.

SF 119 and 120, Investment of State Permanent and Non-Permanent Funds: Revises the cap on the percentage of funds that may be invested in equities and replaces it with a risk profile of a reference portfolio.



KEY APPROPRIATIONS BILLS (Cont.)

SF 72, Financial Council and Reporting: Repeals the inactive, Financial Advisory Council and modifies the date of submission for the State Auditor's year-end state financial report.

SF 35, State Budget Department: Transfers budget oversight from the Department of Administration and Information to the newly created (2020) Department of Budget.

HB 244, State Investment Administration: Authorizes a study to assess options for improving investment operations relating to state funds, including management structure, investment infrastructure and investment management.



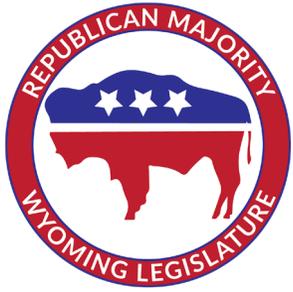
KEY EDUCATION BILLS

HB 21, Wyoming National Guard Preference for Education: Extends preferences given to Wyoming residents for admission to a program or course of study in a Wyoming institution of higher education to members of the Wyoming National Guard, regardless of where they reside.

SF 58, Wyoming Investment in Nursing: Provides that a to-be-determined amount of federal funding may be dedicated to nursing educational programs in the state.

SF 57, School Finance – Dates for Fund Transfers: To address changes to ad valorem tax collection dates from legislation passed in 2020, this bill revises the dates of recapture payments for school districts and specifies an additional annual distribution from the county school fund to ensure that all ad valorem taxes have been collected prior to the fund transfers.

SF 115, Pupil-Teacher Contact Time: Requires the State Board of Education to define minimum amounts of pupil-teacher contact time, including outside of the classroom through virtual learning.



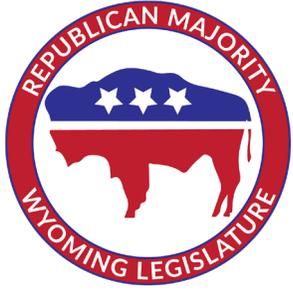
KEY LABOR, HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES BILLS

SF 19, Public Health Emergencies Immunity Amendments: Provides immunity to health care providers and businesses who act in good faith to follow public health orders from liabilities related to COVID-19 illnesses.

HB 127, Public Health Amendments: Establishes restrictions on certain public health orders, including that an order not exceed 10 days without reauthorization, and that subsequent orders with the same purpose not exceed 60 days.

HB 217, Community Health Center and Rural Health Clinic Grants: Repeals the June 30, 2021 sunset date for the community health centers and rural health clinics grant program. Modifies guidelines for the Wyoming Department of Health to provide start-up grants to community health centers and rural health clinics.

SF 52, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Parity: Prohibits any individual or group health insurance contract issued in Wyoming from denying coverage for a mental health or substance abuse service that is delivered using a remote audio or audio-visual system (i.e. delivered using a telehealth system) if that same service would be covered if it was delivered in-person.



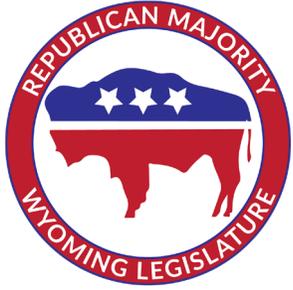
KEY ENERGY/MINERALS BILLS

SJ 3, Federal Suspension and Orders on Oil and Gas Production (Joint Resolution): Calls on Congress and the federal government to “reverse, rescind or repeal” orders that prohibit oil and gas development in Wyoming, including bans on production on federally owned lands and waters.

SF 43, Wyoming Energy Authority Amendments: Amends the purposes of the Energy Authority to include the support of efforts to maintain and expand the rare-earth-minerals industry, the critical-materials industry, the trona industry, and other mineral industries in Wyoming.

HB 7, Air Ambulance Membership Organizations Regulation: Provides for the regulation of air ambulance membership organizations by the Insurance Commissioner. Requires organizations to seek a certificate of registration from the Commissioner before operating in Wyoming and requires organizations to renew their certificates.

SF 111, UW School of Energy Resources Budget Submittal: Requires the University of Wyoming School of Energy to submit budget requests separate from the University of Wyoming, subject to review by the Energy Resources Council.

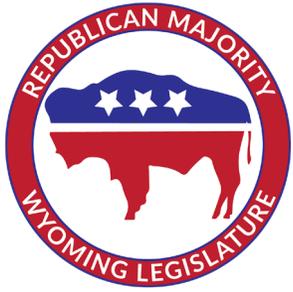


Energy Production Bills

SF 136, Public Service Commission Considerations: Authorizes regulators to assess economic and grid reliability consequences before retiring a coal power plant.

HB 166, Utilities – Presumption Against Facility Retirements: Prevents forced early retirement of coal plants by requiring authorities to provide evidence supporting such a move.

HB 207, Coal-Fired Generation Facility Closures Litigation Funding: Allocates \$1.2 million to the Attorney General to pursue litigation against other states and other states' agencies that impede the sale of Wyoming's coal-generated electricity or coal products.



KEY JUDICIARY BILLS

SF 21, Judicial Review of Agency Actions – Permissible Venues: Provides that a person may seek judicial review of an agency action in the district court in the county where the injury or harm for which relief is sought occurred.

HB 34, Youthful Offender Program – Amendments: Updates the eligibility and guidelines of the Youthful Offender Transition Program.

HB 33, Interference with Public Contracting: Prohibits “bid rigging” and other interference in the awarding of public contracts to ensure independent and non-collusive submittal of bids for public projects.

SF 23, Public Meetings – Executive Session for Security Plans: Allows governing bodies to convene an executive session to consider safety and security planning that, if disclosed, could pose a public safety threat.

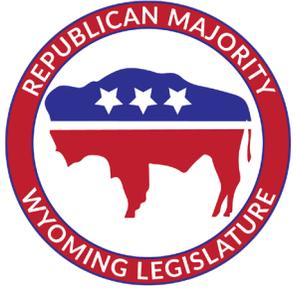


KEY TRAVEL, RECREATION, WILDLIFE & CULTURAL RESOURCES BILLS

HB 133, Online Sports Wagering: Authorizes online sports betting in Wyoming and establishes regulation and tax provisions under the Wyoming Gaming Commission.

SF 56, Wyoming Gaming Commission – Modifications and Corrections: Clarifies the definition of skill-based games and restrictions on those, including maximum bets and maximum payouts.

HB 58, State Parks Account – Expenditure Authority: Codifies 2020 Wyoming Session Laws, Chapter 114 (2020 House Bill 0171), which converted the Wyoming Pari-Mutuel Commission into the Wyoming Gaming Commission. Repeals the July 1, 2021 sunset date allowing for the continued operation of skill-based amusement games in the state.



KEY AGRICULTURE, STATE & PUBLIC LANDS & WATER RESOURCES BILLS

SF 25, Animal Impound Proceeding – Bond and Disposition: Amends and creates bond and disposition proceedings for animals treated cruelly.

SF 26, Animal Abuse Statutes Reorganization and Update: Creates definitions and new sections for the offenses of cruelty to animals and other misdemeanors and felony offenses.

SF 50, COVID-19 Business Relief Programs Agriculture: Provides that federal funding through the CARES Act may be directed to agricultural businesses based on livestock numbers and/or crop acres.

HB 51, Meat Processing Programs: Creates a grant program to expand Wyoming's meat processing capabilities. Provides that federal funding through the CARES Act may be directed to the program.



KEY CORPORATIONS, ELECTIONS & POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS BILLS

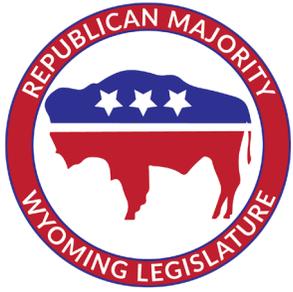
HB 13, Alcoholic Beverage Regulation: Authorizes alcohol deliveries and shipments and establishes guidelines for local permitting and regulation.

HB 29, Burials for Indigent Persons: Provides funding for the burial or cremation of indigent persons without the means to provide such a service through a surcharge on death certificates.

HB 27, Business Code Revisions: Provides various amendments to the business code, including allowing a foreign nonprofit corporation whose certificate of authority has been revoked to apply for reinstatement within two years.

SF 14, Credit for Reinsurance: Amends statutes governing credit for reinsurance, which allow insurers to cede insurance to reinsurers.

SF 18, Universal Occupational Licensure: Provides universal licensure standards applicable to all state licensed professions in Wyoming, except attorneys at law and professions with prescriptive drug authority, for individuals licensed in other states and seeking licensure in Wyoming. Eliminates temporary licensure fees for military spouses.



KEY TRANSPORTATION , HIGHWAYS & MILITARY AFFAIRS BILLS

HB 17, Range Management at Military Training Areas: Creates a fund to collect money from grazing at military training areas, like Camp Guernsey, which will be used to manage and maintain those areas.

HB 254, Transportation Computer System: Creates a Transportation Information System account, which will be used to replace WYDOT's computer operating system. Increases fees to pay for the new system.

SF 13, Abandoned Vehicles – Towing Service Liens and Titles: Amends procedures for notifying owners of towed/impounded vehicles, and steps for recovery carriers to claim abandoned vehicles.

HJ 1, Traumatic Brain Injury and Post Traumatic Stress Treatments (Join Resolution): Calls on Congress and the Veterans Affairs Administration to expand and improve treatments for traumatic brain injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder.



Additional Resources

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



MajoritySiteoftheWyomingLegislature