

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0203

Small business relief.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Sherwood, Banks and Duncan
and Senator(s) Cooper, Furphy, Rothfuss and
Wasserburger

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to the emergency expenses of government;
2 authorizing an emergency governmental program related to
3 economic development and business relief as specified;
4 providing an appropriation; providing a sunset date for the
5 created emergency program; providing rulemaking authority;
6 and providing for an effective date.

7

8 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

9

10 **Section 1.**

11

12 (a) As used in this section:

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14 (i) "Council" means the Wyoming business

15 council;

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2 (ii) "Critically impacted industry" means the
3 tourism, leisure, hospitality, retail or restaurant trades,
4 as further specified by rule of the council;

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6 (iii) "Eligible business" means a business that:

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8 (A) Is independently owned and operated;

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10 (B) Is headquartered in Wyoming or has its
11 principal operations located in Wyoming; and

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13 (C) On March 1, 2020, had employed fifty
14 (50) full-time employees or less.

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16 (iv) "Principal operations located in Wyoming"
17 means:

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19 (A) More than fifty percent (50%) of a
20 business's primary work is located in Wyoming and not less
21 than sixty percent (60%) of the business's employees are
22 employed in Wyoming; or

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1 (B) Not less than sixty percent (60%) of
2 the business's payroll is paid to individuals residing in
3 Wyoming.

4
5 (b) The Wyoming business interruption stipend program
6 is hereby created. The Wyoming business council shall
7 administer this temporary program to provide eligible
8 businesses in critically impacted industries with funds to
9 alleviate the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
10 Stipends awarded under this section shall:

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12 (i) Not be awarded until an eligible business
13 submits, and the council approves, an application. The
14 application shall be developed by the council and shall
15 require each applicant to certify that the business is an
16 eligible business as defined by this section and that
17 knowingly making a false statement to the council on the
18 application is prohibited and may result in the applicant
19 being required to repay all funds awarded under this
20 section;

21
22 (ii) Be conditioned upon the eligible business
23 certifying to the council that the eligible business has

1 incurred financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19
2 pandemic;

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4 (iii) In no event exceed fifty thousand dollars
5 (\$50,000.00);

6

7 (iv) Be made only with funds appropriated from
8 the legislative stabilization reserve account by this act.
9 No other funds of any kind and from any source shall be
10 expended on the payment of stipends awarded under this
11 section.

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13 (c) The council shall promulgate any emergency and
14 regular rules necessary to administer the program
15 authorized by this section.

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17 (d) The attorney general shall review in writing the
18 legality of the program and any rules established for the
19 program authorized by this section.

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21 (e) No expenditure of funds shall be made under this
22 section except in accordance with state and federal laws,
23 regulations and orders.

1

2 (f) The council may conduct and contract for random
3 audits of eligible businesses receiving stipends under this
4 section to ensure awarded funds are expended in compliance
5 with state and federal law.

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7 (g) There is appropriated to the Wyoming business
8 council one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000.00) from
9 the legislative stabilization reserve account for purposes
10 of administering the Wyoming business interruption stipend
11 program. This appropriation shall be for the period
12 beginning with the effective date of this act and ending
13 June 30, 2022. This appropriation shall not be transferred
14 or expended for any other purpose and any unexpended,
15 unobligated funds remaining from this appropriation shall
16 revert as provided by law on June 30, 2022.

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18 (h) The program created by this section shall
19 terminate on December 31, 2021.

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1 **Section 2.** This act is effective immediately upon
2 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
3 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
4 Constitution.

5

6

(END)