

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0035

Select committee on the transfer of public land.

Sponsored by: Joint Minerals, Business and Economic
Development Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to the legislature; establishing the select
2 committee on the transfer of public land as specified;
3 providing a definition; providing a sunset date; providing
4 an appropriation; and providing for an effective date.

5

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

7

8 **Section 1.** W.S. 28-11-601 is created to read:

9

10 ARTICLE 6

11 SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE TRANSFER OF PUBLIC LAND

12

13 **28-11-601. Appointment of members; powers and duties;**
14 **sunset.**

15

1 (a) Not later than March 15 following each general
2 election, a select committee on the transfer of public land
3 shall be appointed subject to the following:

4
5 (i) The president of the senate shall appoint
6 three (3) members of the senate apportioned as nearly as
7 possible to reflect the percentage of the elected
8 membership of the majority and minority parties of the
9 senate, provided that not more than five (5) members of the
10 select committee shall be from the same political party;

11

12 (ii) The speaker of the house of representatives
13 shall appoint three (3) members of the house apportioned as
14 nearly as possible to reflect the percentage of the elected
15 membership of the majority and minority parties of the
16 house, provided that not more than five (5) members of the
17 select committee shall be from the same political party.

18

19 (b) The select committee shall:

20

21 (i) Select from among its members two (2)
22 members to serve as co-chairmen;

23

1 (ii) Determine the potential structure of
2 ownership of public lands within the state including
3 consideration of the state owning the surface rights,
4 owning the subsurface rights, managing either the surface
5 or subsurface, or both, or other ownership and management
6 options as determined by the committee;

7

8 (iii) Determine criteria for management of
9 public lands including consideration of rights currently
10 existing under federal law;

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12 (iv) Consider methods for the federal government
13 to divest public lands held within the state including
14 consideration of legal action and congressional action;

15

16 (v) Develop and introduce legislation as
17 necessary related to the acquisition or management of
18 public lands.

19

20 (c) The select committee may secure consulting
21 services, if necessary, to provide technical assistance in
22 compiling information related to public lands within the
23 state or other issues related to the transfer of public
24 lands.

1

2 (d) As used in this section, "public lands" means any
3 surface or subsurface lands within the boundaries of the
4 state, title to which is held by the federal government.
5 "Public lands" shall not include any land within the
6 boundaries of a designated national park, designated
7 national monument or wilderness area designated under the
8 national wilderness preservation system.

9

10 (e) This section is repealed effective January 1,
11 2018.

12

13 **Section 2.**

14

15 (a) Notwithstanding W.S. 28-11-601(a) as created by
16 this act, not later than ten (10) days after the effective
17 date of this act, a select committee on the transfer of
18 public lands shall be appointed as follows:

19

20 (i) The president of the senate shall appoint
21 three (3) members of the senate apportioned as nearly as
22 possible to reflect the percentage of the elected
23 membership of the majority and minority parties of the

1 senate, provided that not more than five (5) members of the
2 select committee shall be from the same political party;

3

4 (ii) The speaker of the house of representatives
5 shall appoint three (3) members of the house apportioned as
6 nearly as possible to reflect the percentage of the elected
7 membership of the majority and minority parties of the
8 house, provided that not more than five (5) members of the
9 select committee shall be from the same political party.

10

11 **Section 3.** There is appropriated twenty thousand
12 dollars (\$20,000.00) from the general fund to the
13 legislative service office. This appropriation shall only
14 be expended to provide salary, travel and per diem to
15 members of the select committee on the transfer of public
16 land for meetings held from the effective date of this act
17 through June 30, 2016 and for retaining consulting services
18 as necessary pursuant to W.S. 28-11-601(c). Notwithstanding
19 any other provision of law, this appropriation shall not be
20 transferred or expended for any other purpose and any
21 unexpended, unobligated funds remaining from this
22 appropriation shall revert as provided by law on June 30,
23 2016.

24

1 **Section 4.** 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)