HOUSE BILL NO. HB0248

Select committee on elections.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Zwonitzer and Lindholm and Senator(s) Rothfuss

A BILL

for

AN ACT relating to elections; creating the select committee on elections; providing for a study; requiring a report; providing appropriations; and providing for an effective date.

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

Section 1.

(a) There is created the select committee on elections consisting of the following members:

(i) Five (5) members of the Wyoming senate appointed by the president of the senate, one (1) of whom shall be designated as cochairman;
(ii) Five (5) members of the Wyoming house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house, one of whom shall be designated as cochairman.

(b) The select committee shall identify, study and make recommendations on:

(i) Voter access including consideration of alternative ballot distribution methods and emerging technology for casting votes;

(ii) Election results including consideration of alternative voting methods;

(iii) Voter eligibility and voting rights restoration and enfranchisement;

(iv) The electoral college and presidential primary caucus processes;
(v) Campaign finance reporting and oversight including consideration of penalties for noncompliance and enforcement mechanisms;

(vi) Elections and duties of precinct committeemen and committeewomen;

(vii) Methods and procedures for redistricting;

(viii) Transparency and auditing of candidate and lobbyist financial disclosures including consideration of whether such requirements should be imposed on members of the executive or judicial branch of government;

(ix) Election processes of any county, city, town, school district, special district or any other political subdivision of the state;

(x) Specific changes to Wyoming law which may be necessary to modernize elections in the state.

(c) The select committee may limit its consideration of the issues specified in subsection (b) of this section
to only those issues which can be properly studied, giving
preference to issues that have the largest impact on the
public and on elections and for which a solution might be
reasonably available.

(d) In making any recommendations, the select
committee shall rank any recommended changes in order of
importance. The select committee shall also provide a plan
and timeline for the implementation of each recommended
change into law, giving due preference to the early
implementation of changes that will have the greatest
impact and changes which reasonably can be accomplished
with available resources.

(e) The select committee shall submit a report
summarizing its studies, findings and recommendations to
the joint corporations, elections and political
subdivisions interim committee on or before October 15,
2017. The joint corporations, elections and political
subdivisions interim committee shall consider the
recommendations and develop any legislation it deems
appropriate for consideration by the legislature.
(f) The select committee shall hold at least four (4) meetings. The select committee shall be staffed by the legislative service office. State agencies shall provide information and assistance to the select committee as requested by the select committee.

(g) The select committee shall exist until December 31, 2017. Members of the select committee shall be paid salary, per diem and mileage, but no salary for preparation as provided in W.S. 28-5-101(e)(iii), for their official duties as members of the select committee.

Section 2. There is appropriated from the general fund for the purposes of this act forty-five thousand dollars ($45,000.00) to the legislative service office for providing the payments to members of the select committee as authorized in section 1 of this act. Funds appropriated in this section shall be for the period beginning with the effective date of this act and ending June 30, 2018. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, this appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any other purpose and any unexpended, unobligated funds
remaining from this appropriation shall revert as provided by law on June 30, 2018.

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

(END)