

SENATE FILE NO. SF0112

Retirement center and pioneer home.

Sponsored by: Joint Appropriations Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to state institutions; amending provisions
2 providing for the establishment of the Wyoming retirement
3 center and the Wyoming pioneer home; providing state
4 facilities background; requiring a determination by the
5 department of health; requiring a report; and providing for
6 an effective date.

7

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

9

10 **Section 1.** W.S. 9-2-2005(c)(iv)(C) and (E) and
11 25-1-201(a)(vi), (viii) and by creating a new subsection
12 (e) are amended to read:

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14 **9-2-2005. Department of health created; director**
15 **appointed; structure.**

16

1 (c) The following agencies are assigned to the
2 department of health under a Type 1 transfer:

3
4 (iv) The following state institutions:

5
6 (C) Wyoming pioneer home, subject to W.S.
7 25-1-201(e);

8
9 (E) Wyoming retirement center, subject to
10 W.S. 25-1-201(e).

11
12 **25-1-201. Establishment of state institutions.**

13
14 (a) The following state institutions are established:

15
16 (vi) The Wyoming pioneer home at Thermopolis,
17 Wyoming, subject to subsection (e) of this section;

18
19 (viii) The Wyoming retirement center at Basin,
20 Wyoming, subject to subsection (e) of this section;

21
22 (e) Notwithstanding any other provision of law and
23 subject to the approval of the governor, upon a finding by

1 the department of health that a state institution
2 established under paragraph (a)(vi) or (viii) of this
3 section no longer serves as a necessary means of meeting
4 the objectives of the department of health, is not a
5 necessary part of an integrated system designed to provide
6 required services at institutions operated by the
7 department of health and that the services provided at the
8 institution are otherwise available or are reasonably
9 expected to be otherwise available in the community served
10 by the institution:

11
12 (i) Operation of the associated facilities as an
13 established state institution may cease; and

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15 (ii) The property comprising the institution and
16 any lands acquired by the state for the benefit of the
17 institution shall be subject to disposition, lease or
18 continued use by the state as provided by law. The
19 proceeds from any sale or lease conducted under this
20 paragraph shall be credited to the general fund unless
21 specifically directed otherwise by state or federal law or
22 a conveyance instrument.

23

1 **Section 2.**

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3 (a) Recently, the legislature and executive branch of
4 government evaluated the mission and purpose of Wyoming's
5 state run health care facilities. With assistance from the
6 department of health and the joint legislative and
7 executive task force on department of health facilities,
8 the legislature, in 2015, amended laws related to the
9 state's health care facilities to more clearly establish
10 their mission as a safety net for Wyoming's citizens who
11 are unable to obtain necessary services elsewhere. It is in
12 the state's interest to expend state funding only for the
13 operation of state run health care facilities that serve
14 the facility's safety net mission and it is not necessary
15 to provide services in a state run facility that are
16 otherwise available in the community or region.

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18 (b) The Wyoming retirement center was established in
19 Basin in 1924 as the "Wyoming Tuberculosis Sanitarium." It
20 served in that capacity until approximately 1969, when it
21 was repurposed as a state run nursing home. Today, the
22 facility continues to operate as a nursing home, serving
23 predominantly persons from the Big Horn Basin and a number

1 of individuals with mental illness. Pursuant to the 2015
2 revisions to Wyoming law referred to in subsection (a) of
3 this section, the Wyoming life resource center in Lander is
4 the safety net facility responsible for providing services
5 to persons with qualifying mental illness, not the Wyoming
6 retirement center.

7

8 (c) Constructed in Thermopolis in the early 1950s,
9 the Wyoming pioneer home was first conceived in 1946 as the
10 "Wyoming Home for the Aged," with the purpose of providing
11 "care and maintenance of such residents of this State who
12 are without means of support or who must have personal care
13 and attention" (1946 Wyoming Session Laws, Special Session,
14 Chapter 22). Today rather than serving a statewide
15 population or caring for those who are without other means
16 of support, the Wyoming pioneer home serves largely as a
17 subsidized assisted living facility generally for residents
18 from Thermopolis and the neighboring counties.

19

20 **Section 3.**

21

22 (a) Not later than November 1, 2018, the department
23 of health shall make a determination, subject to the

1 approval of the governor, pursuant to W.S. 25-1-201(e). In
2 making the determination, the objectives of the department
3 of health and the department's integrated system of
4 services shall include the objectives and system existing
5 after completion of ongoing construction, renovation and
6 related programmatic changes at the Wyoming state hospital
7 and Wyoming life resource center.

8

9 (b) The department of health shall report its
10 determination made pursuant to subsection (a) of this
11 section to the joint labor, health and social services
12 interim committee and the joint appropriations committee
13 not later than November 1, 2018.

14

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

19

20

(END)